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November 1992

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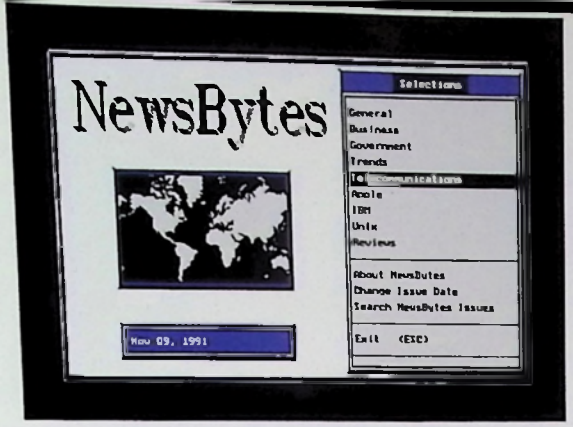

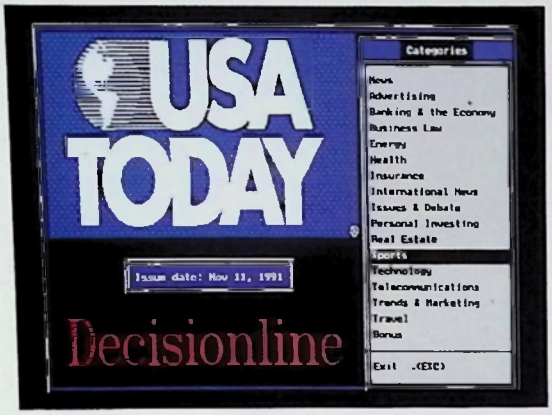

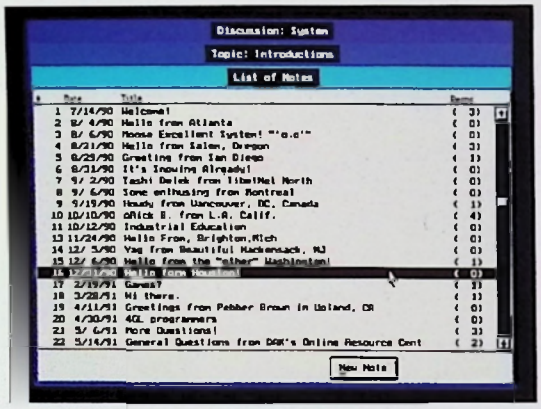

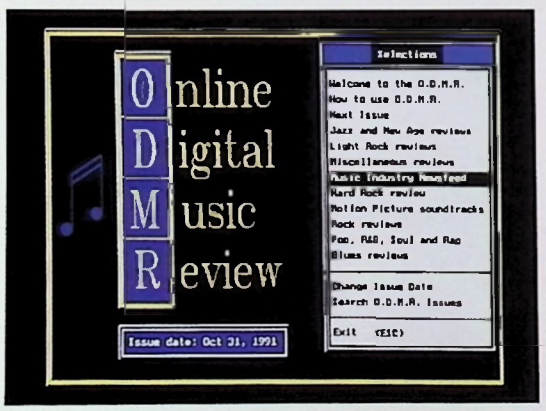

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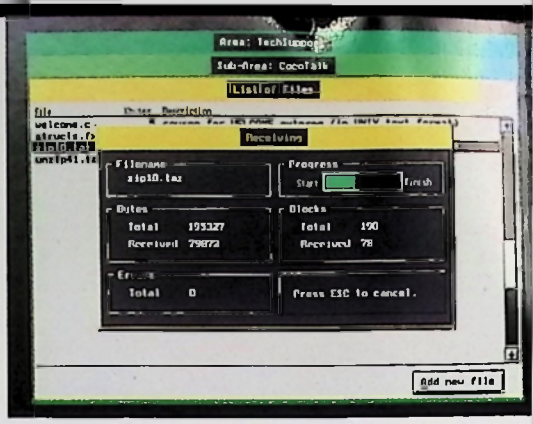

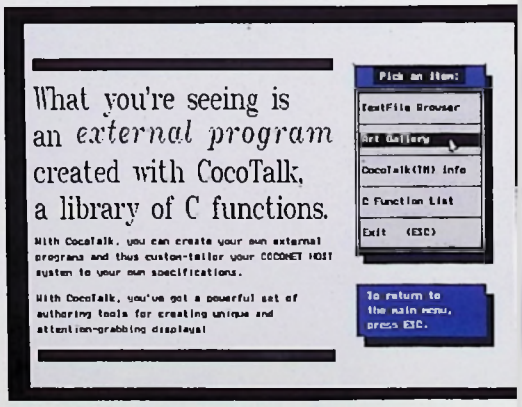

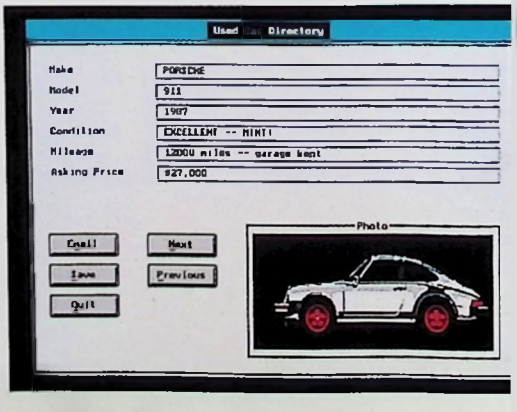

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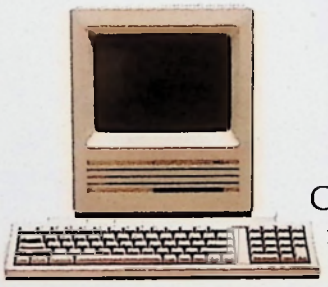

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EDITOR'S NOTES

SEX, LIES, AND POLITICS - LOOKING A GIF HORSE IN THE MOUTH

The wider press is currently preoccupied with "doing the BBS story." And the story they desperately want to do is the "BBS sex" story. They are not too particular as to whether it is pedophilia, obscenity, or whatever, but somehow it should naturally tie in with some form of luring our children into electronic dens of inequity. We're fielding about two inquiries a week now that all focus on the same thing - sex online and who are the victims.

WWOR TV in New York recently did an "expose" on the availability of very graphic and probably obscene GIF images online, and the desperate effect this has on children who can easily obtain them. The story seemed to originate with a concerned mother who found this on her son's computer. The station failed to note that the mother was actually a freelance reporter who did stories for them and who's primary concern was air time.

But in ways larger or smaller, the media is intent on painting this picture. It has enough truth behind it that they will have no shortage of lurid examples to put on the air. And the conclusion to all such stories is quite naturally a call for "something to be done." The something, of course, is some form of regulation and control of electronic bulletin boards.

The problem I have with all this revolves around the meeting of the online world with the tire and gasoline driven one. The juncture is not a clean break. I don't personally have a great deal of interest in defending GIF images of fat chicks with donkeys. But there are some problems with the simplistic view that we can simply legislate away the bad parts, and keep the good parts we want.

There are several types of "sex online" and they are not all identical. The first type has to do with message areas and real-time chat services purporting to cater to wild hot online sex. In the first place, this is a bit of a come-on. Systems advertised to be a real hot spot, are often frequented by pretty normal people discussing pretty mundane things. But even when it is not so tame, it is not what it appears to be to street people with microphones. The online world of sexual discussion is largely a world of fantasy - where the middle aged insurance salesman, balding and sporting a houseful of kids and mortgage payments, can for a few hours assume the persona of Don Juan, Don Quixote, or Don Drysdale. It is interesting to note that many of the sveldt, ravishing young femme fatals online are actually sixty-ish, widowed, and perhaps physically handicapped. Their lives in the real world are largely as non-participants, shut into smallish homes with no money or mobility to go anywhere. The modem and these fantasy worlds online allow them to be as young or as old, as rich or as poor, as pretty or not as they claim they are. There is little chance of being called on the little white lie. It is a form of group, interactive escapism that is almost entirely harmless - and often therapeutic. The relative anonymity and safety of typing keys in the quiet dark of your own den leads to a probably false sense of intimacy. These people share not just their innermost feelings, but often fantasies they would never dream of living out in the real world, or even revealing to their close friends and relatives.

If you take any piece of all this, print it out on clean white paper, and read it aloud to a jury of your peers (who may have never seen a modem) the result can be quite damning. It isn't real, but they don't know that. You've translated the detritus of one world into the harsh light of another, and the result is guaranteed to not make sense - however obvious and clear cut it seems.

The other element of online sex revolves around .GIF images. I do not quite understand what drives all of this. But there does appear to be an insatiable demand for bit-image near photographic quality images of young lovelies unblemished by the valiant efforts of the Garment Workers of America. Worse, many of these go beyond nudity and mild indecency to images that are indisputably obscene. And for a certain group of online users, the search for the ever more luridly disgusting never ends.

This has a number of results. Any number of BBS operators, urged by their callers to find more of these images, have responded quite efficiently to do so. Some have found it a trap. The sex-crazed are quite willing to cough cash for images of greater quantity or more innovatively disgusting poses. And the operators wind up with a good income from a small group of very disturbed callers.

Jim Maxey, operator of a very financially successful BBS, Event Horizon, has gained some repute as the result of a copyright infringement lawsuit brought by Playboy Magazine. Maxey has solid credentials in photography and the hardware and software end of bit imaging going back for nearly a dozen years. Event Horizon was originally devoted to astronomical photographs and graphics. In fact the term Event Horizon actually refers to the gravitational point of no return theoretically near a black hole in space. But in response to caller demand, today Maxey produces animations and GIF images of naked women.

Today most all of the larger BBS systems carry at least some of these GIF images. And the ever present group of sysops who are not succeeding financially have seized on this as a handy excuse for failure. We regularly hear from operators who insist they will not provide these images, and they are convinced there is no way to prosper without trafficking in Adult GIFs. This logic doesn't really follow, but it does make them feel better.

Virtually all of the bulletin boards that are currently financially profitable, provide a bit of EVERYTHING. They may have 300 file areas and 500 message conferences. We are still at the point where this general systems are profitable, and the special topic systems we think will eventually own it all are currently the bottom of the economic food chain online. But somehow the group looking for a reason to fail focus on two file areas and five adult conferences as the sole reason for success. It is not

quite so simple. These currently successful systems succeed because their callers feel they can get ANYTHING available online from that system.

The other aspect that is bothersome about the obscene GIF controversy has to do with throwing the baby out with the bath water. There is a lot of energy in this online sex drive. And it has caused a lot of tools. CompuServe introduced the GIF format in 1987. In barely five years, it has become a ubiquitous online standard for handling bit-image graphics. There are dozens of programs available to view them, crop them, reverse them, invert them, convert them to other formats, import them from other formats, size them, compress them, and do most anything you like with them. Datastorm Technologies included a GIF image viewer in their latest Procomm for Windows offering. Procomm is indisputably the most popular terminal program in use in the BBS world, and it has GIF built in now. You can view GIFs on your screen as you download them.

Would these tools have been developed without sex online? Probably not, and certainly not with the rapidity and ubiquity that we find today. And the ultimate destination of such tools have nothing to do with sex. They have to do with art and communication. A picture really DOES communicate a 1000 words - or more. Much of science depends on graphics as a tool to present and discuss large data sets visually. And most of art depends on visual transmission. But the kinds of people involved in art and science are not necessarily involved in computers. They are unlikely to develop these tools and only now in many areas discovering that they are available. As they make the discovery, there is a big bonus for the planet at some future point.

Visual arts historically have revolved around photographs, paintings, or sketches that an artist produces and then sells. Whoever buys it hangs it on a wall, either a private wall or a public wall. If you are privileged to be standing next to the wall, you get to see and enjoy this artistic expression. If you aren't lucky enough to be in the same room, you largely never get to see it. There are publications of prints and expensive books containing photographic images of these works, but the dissemination of art to the world is a pretty limited situation. Indeed, some of the perceived value in art revolves around it's rarity and exclusivity.

But art does have intrinsic value in and of itself. And I suspect you can't really water down that value simply by allowing large numbers of people to enjoy it. Currently the art world is hesitant to disseminate computer images of art online. This comes from views and traditions of copyright and protection that are gradually becoming obsolete. In practice, I think eventually photographers and artists will welcome electronic distribution of their works to millions online. The originals will become MORE valuable because of the familiarity of the world with their work. Many unknown artists paint beautiful pictures, but without the years of building a reputation in the art world, they are fortunate to recover the cost of the paint and canvass. Art becomes valuable as much because it is known and familiar as it does because it is good art. And the electronic age we face will allow millions to enjoy what will become pretty good facsimiles of art they would otherwise never see. These images won't be as good as the original. But they will convey the essential idea. This will all require a different view of copyright and ownership, but I think it will evolve fairly naturally.

In this issue, we look at the first actual art gallery we know of that is putting art online wholesale. EarthArt BBS is actually operated from the floor of the Ambassador Graphics and Wildlife Gallery in North Charleston South Carolina. They make money from the sale of collectible prints and stamps of conservation wildlife art. They feel by distributing GIFs online of these images, they can spur interest in sales of actual prints and stamps of the original art. I think they are onto the model much of the art world will eventually follow - an online free catalog of what is available. We can all dial this system, download, and enjoy GIF images of fish and ducks and so forth. But this will naturally cause many of us to want the real thing to hang on the wall.

What has all this to do with sex? Without the ubiquity of GIF tools, EarthArt could not be. Owners of art galleries are singularly unlikely to write graphic imaging software. Not ever.

So what we are seeing is a maturation of the online world. Starting with what is probably a crime, I see an entire world of rich imagery evolving to benefits I frankly don't have the vision to imagine in full tapestry.

And the sex online? I would like to think we will outgrow it manifold. It really has always been a sideshow - never the main attraction - to the online experience. We are now seeing a number of BBS operators, concerned by the direction toward sex for many practical reasons having little to do with prudery, quietly remove the images from their system or at least pull back to simple nudes - eschewing the racier obscene images. And some are frankly frightened of increasing rumors of legislation and federal "sting" operations in the offing. They don't want to be singled out as the "example" system used to clean up the frontier. We recently received a press release from Albuquerque's Garbage Dump BBS noting they were removing ALL adult GIF images from their system entirely. This is an adult chat system who's THEME is adult sexual issues. But the majority of their callers are really online discussing the pain of divorce, the grief of losing a loved one, and where to get the best deal on life insurance. And while operator Dean Kerl fully expected a 20% loss in traffic from the move, it turned out to be less

than 10%. Likewise Owen Hawkins, of SPACE BBS in California, and Kevin Behrens of Aquila BBS, have quietly purged their boards.

I suspect this will become a trend. And for those with an ear to hear, it will inevitably be spurred by some legal enforcement actions that will happen over the course of the next year. Some otherwise well intentioned BBS operators will probably BE made examples of - a tragedy in most ways. Freedom of expression is a difficult thing to regulate "just a little bit." I can't think of a case where it's been done with anything but bumbling overkill, and too often the baby gets thrown out - and the bath water somehow stays.

It would be far better if the majority of the online world simply outgrew this adolescent preoccupation with sexual imagery, and went on to publish pictures of ducks - fully feathered ducks.

Jack Rickard

LETTERS

Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, Boardwatch Magazine, 7586 West Jewell Ave. Suite 200, Lakewood, CO 80232

Jack,

I have just returned from the ONE BBSCON '92 and would like to pass along some comments:

This was truly a "happening" in the BBS world, showing one and all that not only do BBS' exist, but are a big and growing force. Everyone from the general computer press to the modem manufacturers should now realize that this is a vast arena, and one largely heretofore unrecognized. The energy and excitement was felt from Wednesday evening until after the last sessions on Sunday morning.

The conference itself was obviously well-planned and well-executed. Everything seemed to proceed without a hitch, just like clockwork. Although I'm sure there were some behind-the-scenes panics, they were entirely invisible to participants. You and your staff, including the hotel staff did a exemplary job. Peg Conniglio appeared to the casual observer as though she does this stuff every day.

The sessions were entertaining and informative. Vendor displays were informative and useful to the participants, albeit very crowded. My limited contacts with vendors indicate that they were pleased with the results of their participation. Probably the best part for me and many others was meeting in person many of the folks who we've only known through our CRT's. I visited with Sysops from 50 miles from home, all the way to folks like John Burden from England.

And, regarding the facility: Please pass along my heartfelt thanks to the manager and staff of the Stouffer Concourse Hotel for a very enjoyable stay. The room was great, the restaurant had great food and fine service, and all the staff was friendly, courteous, and helpful.

The only shortcoming that I can think of was the fact that poor "Dawn" was alone in trying to service the bar patrons on Saturday night, and she could really have used some help. Her efforts were nothing short of heroic!

It is very rare for something of this type to be completed largely without negatives, especially a first effort. (I believe that ONE, Inc. has never done one of these before) You folks truly had your collective act together. I, for one, thank you for the opportunity to participate in the ONE BBSCON, and am avidly looking forward to 1993's 'CON. Besides, my wife is also anticipating another visit to The Tattered Cover Bookstore!

Jim Dunmyer
Toledo's TBBS 1:234/2
(419)475-6003

Jim:

Most pleased you enjoyed the convention. BBSs are indeed a big and growing force. Part of the reason for the existence of ONE BBSCON was that I was unconvinced even those participating realized how big - and how much of a force.

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BBS operators, quite of necessity, spend most of their "spare" time in the basement or den, running the BBS. In interacting with callers, they have the sense that they are communicating and dealing with other people. On some level they are, and on another level, they are really quite alone in the basement. This leads almost to a state of sensory deprivation.

I watch bulletin boards - that's why we call it Boardwatch. And in seeing the incredible variety, depth, breadth, and sheer numbers of things being done - not primarily by institutions, but by individuals, I'm nearly overcome by the power of this thing. But when I talk to sysops one-on-one, their perception of what this is, from almost every angle, differs from mine in a very subtle fashion. They think they are little. I think they are giants striding across a wind swept prairie of the future. They think they are little guys in basements - dueling with problem callers, and struggling to bring a small system to life. The forces of the world seem to conspire to reinforce that they are small. I've had several PC journalists explain to me that the BBS industry is just three or four very small companies selling BBS software. It takes my breath away that these guys can make a living writing about an industry so gruesomely misunderstood. It's like defining the auto industry by the number of companies manufacturing floor jacks.

On the other hand, the commercial online services are virtually in a state of clitoral fibrillation that they are approaching the five million caller mark - total - on people who access online services such as CompuServe, GEnie, and AOL. In every conversation, they are almost neurotically focused on making sure I understand that they are the "big guys" and bulletin boards are a sideshow.

None of this makes sense in the world I perceive. So either I am completely lost in space, or there is a big information problem here. I see nearly 11 million BBS callers, over 40,000 BBS systems in the U.S alone. And as it gains an economic basis, where lone individuals can invest a few thousand bucks and start a business of unlimited potential, THAT size is the TINDER for a fire storm yet to come - and there are people hauling gasoline to it in trucks on the horizon.

ONE BBSCON was an attempt to get a thousand BBS operators out of the basement and into a central location so they could see, touch, smell, and talk to each other. A place to see what a thousand of the most creative and imaginative people in the country looked like. A place to see if they were all nerds, or if, as I've suspected, they were really pretty normal people with powerful ideas. And frankly, I had never seen a thousand of them in one place myself.

We said we would do it. And technically, we did it with 46 attendees to spare. But I confess I did not expect what happened. The sheer numbers of people coming from entirely different continents - I didn't expect. We tried to provide a nice, upscale professional exhibit area. But the buying feeding frenzy that broke out on the exhibit floor - I didn't expect. I had hoped attendees would have an adequate opportunity to "network". But the deal making orgy in the hall with several hundred people talking and pumping each other so hard it made their faces visibly hurt - continuously for nearly four days - I didn't expect. And finally, the intensity of this group of people, excited just about FINDING each other, blew the top off this thing. I've been in shock for two weeks and I still don't know what it all means.

My point is this Jim. We did do quite a bit of work on facilities planning, promotion, and session planning to create an environment suitable for a meeting of BBS operators where the food, facilities, speakers, etc. would be there and look professional. But we didn't make what happened at ONE BBSCON happen at all - not by a long shot. You all did. We had our hands full trying to keep the walls standing and the roof on top.

In any event, it was the most fun I've ever had standing up. We'll do it again next year. I guess I'd like to see about 2000 operators here then.

For those unfamiliar with the Tattered Cover, it is a book store in the same sense that New York City is a village. I hold it in regard as the finest book store in the country. I've never been in and out in less than six hours so I avoid it unless I've some free time.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

You and Phil did an excellent job on the conference. I felt that I was witnessing the birth of a new industry. There definitely was something positive and full of expectations in the air. The sessions were nearly uniformly good and the hotel did an excellent job of hosting. The conference agenda was clearly well thought out. The food was good. The exhibits room provided great information and wonderful discounts and freebies that could have literally paid the cost of admission.

Don't know what else to say, except that I'm already looking forward to next year's conference. Thank you, Jack and Phil.

P.S. Hope you all covered your expenses and didn't lose anything.

Bruce Kirschner

Bruce:

Glad you found the conference worthwhile. One of the foremost precepts in doing ONE BBSCON was that everyone who touched it had to win. No sponsors, charitable contributions, good faith gestures - no compromises. If we were to have vendors, they had to feel vended. Attendees were to feel attended, speakers were to feel they had spoken, those listening were to feel adequately spoken to - and allowed to participate. The hotel had to feel filled. That was the rule. No losers. Everyone from the bell captain of the hotel to our keynote speaker, John C. Dvorak, must leave a clear - nay victorious, winner.

In a situation where many of the vendors and attendees perceive themselves to be in competition, this win/win/win concept is a little avant garde. But I believe if you can do it, "you cover your expenses and don't lose anything" rather automatically. Moreover, you've done something in and of itself worthwhile. That's the way the world works. Some bean counter somewhere at some point will notify us as to whether or not it is prudent to do it again, but I'm pretty confident all of that will sort itself out without a great deal of my own curiously inept supervision, and we'll look for you again in '93.

See you there,

Jack Rickard

Jack:

DID YOU SEND IT TO THEM, OR DID THEY COME TO YOU?

This was an issue that came up at each of the three legal panels I sat on at the recent ONE BBSCON convention in Denver.

Simply put, the issue is this: when you run an online service (BBS, etc) that is reachable over the phone lines from anywhere, what laws and what jurisdiction applies to what goes on regarding content?

If your BBS in LA has content that adheres to "community standards" there and someone from someplace else in America or elsewhere downloads it, reads it, etc. and that content does NOT conform to the "community standards" of that location, then can the remote location authorities go after the BBS in LA?

This is a question that nobody has a clear answer for because like so much of these things, there is little real case-work involving it, but it is a MAJOR issue, a thorny issue, one that won't go away, will likely get some people in hot water as test cases and could well have a real chilling effect on how BBS' conduct their affairs should the law tilt in the direction of remote jurisdiction.

Now I know that just about every DA wants everything to be in his or her local jurisdiction, and I also believe that there are some laws that lean in the direction of remote jurisdiction.

But I think it is a Bad Idea and one which ought to be fought by everyone concerned about this. Think about it. Think about the quagmire of confusion that can only come about if local community standards can effect what happens to a board far away.

And it just doesn't make sense to me to think of it like that. Even if you advertise in a magazine saying "dial us up and check us out" or some such thing. The question is: did you bring it to them or did they come to you to get it?

I say we ought to get together and declare that when someone dials up your board, *they came to you* and not the other way around. Maybe we need to found our own association that advocates these things for our interest. This isn't cast in concrete yet, but if it goes in the wrong direction it's going to be bad news for all of us.

Regards,

John Coate
tex@well.sf.ca.us

John:

You raise a real question, and one to which I not only don't know the answer, but I don't think we'll see an answer to it at all soon.

The point where CyberSpace meets Broadway is a very strange juncture. I would like it to come down as you suggest, where each BBS is responsible for adhering to the standards and laws within its own geo-political division. I think this makes sense, and in a practical sense involving criminal matters, prosecuting a BBS in another state for infringing laws in your local area is expensive, and unlikely to lead to much by way of satisfaction. You wouldn't prosecute a liquor store for selling whiskey to someone who drove in from a dry county.

But there was a situation with a satellite distributed adult television channel, where a small town in Texas basically put it off the air. More recently, CompuServe actually removed an Apogee game file, Escape from Castle Wolfenstein, based on the RUMOR that it might be against the law in Germany - because it included depictions of various Nazi symbols. I found that stand notably courageous on the part of CompuServe (NOT).

If all you want to do is get together and declare that when someone calls your BBS, they came to you - consider it declared. As to the association, I am afraid I'm just not much of an association joiner. This came up repeatedly at ONE BBSCON, and I don't know how to put it more plainly, I'm not only not inclined to start a sysop association, but disinclined to join one. If anyone needs time or space to organize one at ONE BBSCON next year, we will certainly try to accommodate them. I'll personally pour coffee for them. But I have no designs on being part of it.

That is not to say that there isn't good and plenty reason for there to be an association, or that it isn't needed, or that it wouldn't be successful. I just don't like organizations that involve Robert's Rules of Order, volunteers, and all the trappings that involve most group efforts. Despite a rather serious philosophy along those lines, I did make an exception in supporting the Electronic Frontier Foundation a couple of years ago when it was formed, joined it as a member, contributed money to it, and encouraged Boardwatch readers to do likewise. It was founded by people I like and admire, for all the right reasons, and with the best of intentions. The entropy of such organizations being what it is, in two short years the EFF has devolved into a group of ex-ACLU lawyers looking for a free Washington power-lunch, with little in the way of concern or familiarity with things online. They would love to be alarmingly elitist, if they actually knew what that looked like online. I look for them to continue a slide away from the BBS and online community and increasingly toward irrelevancy. I would like to think Cliff Figallo can reverse this trend, but he's outnumbered, surrounded, and outflanked by lawyers.

It is a sad, but probably inevitable progression that has more to do with the dynamics of associations, foundations, clubs, groups, and other odd assemblages than anything else. Basically things are done by individuals. It is true that when two people join to do a thing, their cumulative powers are greater than the sum of the parts. When a third joins, it is perhaps magnified again. But at about member four, some sort of universal penalty box comes into play to reduce the effectiveness to less than either of the original two. And a downward slide from there continues to become more screwed up with each person who joins after that - in ever closer approximations of useless - until the original founders quit and the group goes careening off into the future in search of a raison d'etre. At about this point it starts wounding innocents.

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*This slightly xenophobic view of group dynamics causes me to avoid even agreeing with anybody, for fear we might team up into a group of two and start a trend. It's caused a slightly negative personal reputation for being an a**hole - but small price to pay - I'm not in any groups.*

So with that experience, I would note the BBS community probably does need a representative association or lobbying group of some sort, I hope it forms one, and I'm personally disinclined to be a part of it. Are you volunteering to lead the charge?

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack and Phil:

Congratulations on an outstanding conference! I am positive that ONE BBSCON will continue to be a success in the years to come. I was glad to be chosen as a presenter and was impressed with the professionalism and helpfulness of the entire staff. Every aspect of the conference was extremely organized and polished. Is this really the first time you did this?

Best Wishes,

DATASTORM TECHNOLOGIES, INC

Phil James
Director of Research and Development

Phil:

It was really the first time, and we thank you for being gentle. Actually, we had quite a bit of good advice from those on our Executive Advisory Board that had done such things before, including Stan Hirschman and Jim Warren. And we got a little anal retentive on the detail work end of it to compensate for our lack of experience. It appeared to work. We appreciate your participation. I would like to see ONE BBSCON become a good place for communications software developers, modem manufacturers, BBS operators, and so forth to get together to tell tall tales, compare notes, get to know each other as people, work out cooperative technologies, and perhaps in the process accelerate the march of neat new stuff for me to play with. We've made a start. And I hope you'll join us again next year.

Warmest Regards;

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

Well, I've unpacked my suitcase, scraped off my desk, signed another book contract, and rearranged the office. Before I get swamped in work again, I wanted to take a moment to drop you a "thank you" note.

The convention was an unparalleled success. It was obviously well-run, well-planned, and well-coordinated. I enjoyed the convention immensely!. I also wanted to say that I enjoyed meeting you. You have a good staff.

According to the publisher, ***Using Computer Bulletin Boards*** is doing well. I'm pleased. I'm working on the idea of them doing something for next year's convention: advertising, a vendor booth, whatever I can talk them into. I'll be talking to Peg Coniglio about this. Please let me know if you need another review copy of the book; I'll be glad to have it sent to you.

I'm looking forward to seeing you next year at the next ONE BBSCON...or will that be "TWO BBSCON?" Oh, well, whatever... In any case, it was wonderful. Thanks for everything.

Very Truly Yours

John V. Hedtke
Author, Using Computer Bulletin Boards.

John:

Glad you enjoyed the gathering. I had considered The World Online BBS Convention (TWO BBSCON) for next year. But we had probably better stick with Online Networking and BBS Convention (ONE BBSCON) as a name. What if it's a success again next year? I can't think of a string for which THREE would serve as an acronym.

Jack Rickard

Mr. Rickard:

I was excited to read your article on NAPLPS and recent developments with this standard. It is exciting (and fun) to see the graphical standard for BBS systems unfold before our eyes! I am of the opinion that the NAPLPS (ANSI) standard is the BBS graphical standard of the future and am very pleased with Boardwatch's coverage of this standard.

The review of Alan McNamee's module for the commercial TBBS NAPLPS package received excellent coverage. I feel my shareware TurBoard BBS package has a lot to offer the BBS community as well, and I appreciate you mentioning a few of its features. I would also like to update you on some of the other features of TurBoard.

The first full-featured BBS version of TurBoard was 0.10. Since then, I've increased the version number by .01 for every new or improved feature in TurBoard, that is the reason for its current 0.44(+). It is not in a pre-release state. TurBoard implements fully integrated NAPLPS (where others can show NAPLPS frames, their BBS software doesn't understand NAPLPS) and is fully downward compatible with ANSI and ASCII BBS emulations.

TurBoard implements multi-node support, on-line questionnaires, QWK offline reader support, FidoNet, classified advertising, on-line books, on-line BBS list, door support for most door programs, CB chat for multinode systems, keyword file searches, phonetic name searches, bulletins, unlimited message forums, and many other standard BBS functions. This is complete in the shareware version!

Your explanation of NAPLPS was pretty good, especially in pointing out that it, if used properly, is much faster than even ANSI graphics. (Consider 2 bytes to change a text color compared to ANSI's 5 to 8 bytes!) This can shorten electronic mail considerably. Think of writing a message on FidoNet with a graphic to drive home your point or a classified advertisement with a picture of the item you are selling or a door game with you and another caller play-

ing "tank"! There is definitely an advantage to switching over a BBS to NAPLPS full time!

In fact, Jack, the NAPLPS standard doesn't have to stop with that, there are provisions already in place to enhance this standard to go well beyond what we know as the NAPLPS today. Does sound and motion video make you drool? It does me! The research has already been done, and it's very cheap. NAPLPS is just the beginning and it provides a SMOOTH migration to much bigger and better things. I encourage everyone: TBBS, PC Board, Major BBS, etc. to develop this standard so everyone can enjoy it, and don't let some proprietary standard take away our God-given BBS freedoms!

Sincerely,

Shawn Rhoads
TurBoard BBS 1:362/614

Shawn:

The urge to move to more powerful graphics online has indeed come of age. NAPLPS has a lot to recommend it, but there are other works in progress that are pretty exciting as well. I look for a 14.4kbps V.32bis modem to be available in popular retail chains at less than $225 - probably by the time you read this. And a 9600 bps V.32 modem may be available for as little as $99.95 by the end of the year courtesy of a slow but colorful major online service. In my mind, the $225 point has been historically important in moving to the next modem speed en masse. By the end of this year, or early next, the majority of those online will be using 9600 bps or greater speeds online. On Friday, we'll be a 2400 bps world, and the following Monday it will be 9600 bps and faster. This opens the door to do graphics - even bit image graphics - albeit somewhat slowly.

For the next couple of years, we will be involved in a graphics interface development orgy with hundreds of product introductions and announcements. This will coincide, and to some degree cause, a mass movement of millions of new online citizens. It will probably also lead to some seriously strange bulletin boards. The power to create is also the power to make ugly. But the combination of higher numbers of participants, and the graphics that will probably make even 19.2kbps modems ultimately look a bit plodding, should fire a move to something faster - ISDN perhaps, fiber optics, ATM - something. We are within a few years of having virtually instant access to hundreds of thousands of data cottages - in color - with photographs - at useful speeds.

Does sound and motion make me drool? Oh, not in a real slobbery sense. It perhaps causes me to pick my nose a bit in thought though. I've never been much enamored with devices speaking to me and issuing various directives. I have a wife for that and it undermines her authority. I did have a friend shoot a Chrysler in the dash board over some silly disagreement involving seat belts and open doors once. Motion video? Are we talking bulletin boards as tiny television stations? Hmmm.... that actually has some interesting possibilities....

For the immediate future, I agree that NAPLPS seems to be the leading contender for the online graphics interface. For one thing, it has the capability of addressing the international alphabet soup we face in forming a global electronic world.

Jack Rickard

TELEBITS

RUMORS AND STUFF

While hardly a trekkie, I do confess some affinity for the Star Trek and ST Next Generation television shows. I was but twelve years old when it first hit the screen, and I've seen most of them twice or more. But some of it still eludes me. I almost never know what year it is, or where they really are. To some degree, I don't even know what they are talking about. What is a warp factor? For all I know, warp factor nine could be about 35 miles per hour and the whole part of the galaxy they are always referring to may be the size of a football field.

This came to a head over the term PARSEC. They were always so many PARSECs from here or there, and somehow it was always a few more parsecs than they wanted. A parsec here, a parsec there, I guess it adds up even for star ships. But what the hell is a parsec?

A little investigation revealed that a parsec is actually a shortened "parallax arc second." It would appear that astronomers have a great deal of interest in measuring how far various celestial objects are from us. And there are few things to measure by or with when you are talking about things so far away that it takes light years to make the transit. One of the early techniques used to measure stellar distance was some basic trigonometry and the concept of parallax. Parallax is the apparent change in position of an object viewed from two different points of perspective. If you hold a finger out in front of you, and close one eye, then open that eye and close the other, the finger appears to shift in position. The amount of shift is inversely proportional to the distance to the finger, and directly proportional to the distance between your two eyes.

The same thing can be applied to stellar objects - at least relatively near ones. But since they are so far away, batting your eyes doesn't produce much parallax. However, the orbit of the earth provides a much wider range of perspectives. By observing a near star against the background of stars much further away at one moment, and then observing the same star precisely half a year later, we are basically viewing the star from opposite ends of the earth's orbit around the sun. The amount of "shift" will be inversely proportional to the distance of the star from earth's orbit. If the star appears to shift precisely one second of arc in the sky, it is said to be one parallax arc second distant, or one parsec distant. This corresponds roughly to a distance of **3.26 light years.** So a parsec is the distance light can travel at 200 million meters per second, in 3.26 years.

HURRICANE ANDREW also does phones. An aging AT&T microwave system linking Florida to Cuba was the only trunk for carrying LD calls between the U.S. and Cuba. It was destroyed by the hurricane and Cuba refuses AT&T attempts to reroute calls -

except through Italy. Cuba is effectively cut off. Bell South estimated that 150,000 lines in Florida and 30 lines in Louisiana were still out of service a week after the storm.

Businesses rely heavily on the U.S. Postal Service and rates have been on a dramatic rise over the past decade. The USPS is offering tips on how to save money on a mass mailing - and the tips are on diskette. The "**USPS Mail Flow Planning System**" is described on an IBM compatible disk and available free of charge. Call **800-238-3150.**

Work on NAPLPS products for online use is accelerating. Rumor mill indicates that Andrew Milner, author of Remote Access BBS, has designs on making RA NAPLPS compatible. Bit Bucket Software, developers of the popular BinkleyTerm FidoNet compatible mail front end are rumored to be at work on some NAPLPS communication products - this company has a history of developing FREE software, and very solid stuff at that.

Cellular telephone service is catching on everywhere. Average per-user monthly bills continue to fall - currently about **$68** monthly. Some nine million in the United States have taken the pledge and industry analysts claim some 7300 new cellular subscribers join the party each day. In late May, Grenada County Mississippi was the last of the 734 cellular markets set up by the FCC to go online. BellSouth Mobility switched on RSA#496 nine years after the FCC granted the first license in 1983.

The phones themselves are getting lighter as well. Motorola just introduced the **MicroTAC Ultra Lite**, a **5.9** ounce telephone some 20% smaller than the 7.7 ounce MicroTAC Lite they introduced last year. The **$945** pocket phone features 65 minutes of talk time thanks to some new nickel metal hydride batteries. A $50 option called VibraCall causes the phone to vibrate rather than ring. This could bring yet another aspect to phone sex...

Look for Software Etc. to introduce some serious assaults on the price of **V.32bis** and **V.32** modems - the latter showing up on shelves at well under the magic $200 mark and some speculate as low as **$149.95**.

The **Byte Information Exchange** (BIX) has apparently prospered since moving out from under the auspices of Byte Magazine and in under the wing of Delphi. Internet mail to **user@delphi.com** has been available for some time. Latest rumors: a full internet connection for BIX with **telenet bix.com** very likely. This is increasingly an option for such services - the Whole Earth Lectronic Link has had the telnet connection for several months. If it does come to pass, an IP address for BIX of **192.80.63.253** would be interesting...

SkyTel, one of the largest players in the pager game is now offering a software program titled SkyWord Access which allows the user to send alphanumeric pages via modem - probably opens the door to bulletin boards forwarding e-mail to alphanumeric pocket pagers - contact SkyTel Info at **(800)456-3333.**

eSoft, Inc. is rumored to be in beta test with their **.QWK** mail option module. The new module will allow TBBS bulletin boards to service callers who use offline mail readers such as QMail Deluxe, OLX, and SLMR.

CATALOG FOR LAPTOP USERS

We have confessed in the past a propensity to buy via mail order, and a fascination with the thousands of ever more specialized catalogs available. We recently received one from **The Complete Portable, Inc**. This was a fascinating little catalog containing 36 very artfully done pages of bric-a-brac for laptop computer users. And it was engaging.

The company seems to be a one stop shop for unusual laptop paraphernalia. Most notable was a fairly complete set of **international power plugs** and **telephone jack converters**. They offered six different six-foot cables that had a standard RJ-11 modular connector on one end an international telephone jack on the other. Models were available for Swedish, Italian, Dutch, German, French, British, and Australian connectors and were priced at a fairly attractive **$15** each. Similarly, they offered a line of 10 different power connectors that get you plugged in for AC in almost any country of the world at prices ranging between $10 and $20. They even had one for CIS countries previously part of the Soviet Union - an odd looking plug at that.

One item that caught our eye was a flexible solar cell mat made of the amorphous silicon cells. This 30X16-inch mat weighs just 29 ounces and puts out 750-800 milliamps at up to 16.3 vdc. Priced at $299, you can get adapters for Compaq, DEC, Radioshack, Panasonic, Toshiba, or Zenith laptops to plug your laptop in and recharge the battery with sunshine in about four hours.

An automobile inverter gadget allows you to plug into the 12vdc cigarette lighter to produce 124 watts of 120VAC, 60Hz power to run anything, including your laptop - priced at $139.

The company also offers a dizzying array of both internal and external modems for various laptop designs, external hard and floppy disk units, replacement batteries, soft and hard travel cases, telephone connection kits, and other laptop geegaws. They offer memory upgrades for almost any laptop at quite attractive prices. For $15, they will send you a shipping box, pay insurance, and freight both ways, allowing you to send in your laptop and have them do the memory upgrade. They claim they'll get it back to you in about a week. The catalog is $2. We'd like to see a BBS where we could order. The Complete Portable, Inc., 505 Shawn Lane, Prospect Heights, IL 60070; **(800)328-4827** ext 3317; **(612)944-8404** international; **(708)577-6551** fax.

AT&T TELEPHONE VOICE ENCRYPTION DEVICE

AT&T has announced a new device to provide secure voice communications for companies fearing interception of confidential voice conversations. The AT&T Telephone Security Device Model 3600 is connected between the telephone and wall jack. One of these devices is required on both ends of the conversation and they are pretty proud of it at **$1195** each. The device is port-

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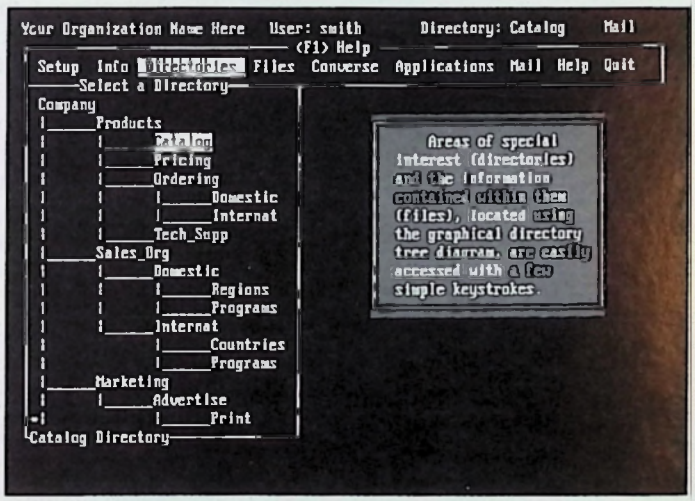

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able, however, weighing just 1.5 pounds and about the size of a hand-held calculator. It works on both ISDN and analog telephones and requires AC power.

LIGHTNING COMMUNICATIONS DECLARES BANKRUPTCY

Lightning Communications of San Viejo California declared bankruptcy on September 8th. Employees came to work to find the doors locked and all telephone lines went unanswered - including fax and BBS numbers.

The company filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy proceedings in the U.S. district court in Santa Anna California.

Lightning had produced an excellent low-priced internal modem based on the Rockwell chipset offering 14.4 kbps V.32bis data connections as well as fax at a list price of $279 and a BBS operator discount to $240. We reviewed this modem favorably in our September issue.

EVENT HORIZONS/PLAYBOY MAGAZINE SETTLE GIF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT SUIT.

One of the most popular activities online in recent months involves the download of GIF images. GIF images are scanned photographs held in CompuServe's Graphics Image Format (GIF - pronounced "JIFF"). Numerous utility programs abound to view these GIF images on VGA color monitors.

Aside from the question of pornography online, the question of copyright has arisen more than once. One of the great debates in Internet is whether scanned images from Penthouse Magazine and Playboy Magazine constitute copyright infringement. Undoubtedly they do, but the online world is such that even fairly basic issues can be debated for months without resolution.

More problematical for BBS operators is the issue of even identifying copyrighted images. Typically, callers upload GIF images with a file name, a very brief description of the image, and nothing else. The images, just as images in magazines and newspapers, do not actually carry copyright notices on the image, and indeed there is no requirement for them to do so to retain full copy rights. The file itself normally doesn't include documentation or other text. So BBS operators have little by way of indication if a particular image is freely available for distribution, or a scanned image from a national magazine.

Jim Maxey's **Event Horizon BBS (503)697-5100** has enjoyed some considerable success in the BBS world, primarily by offering scanned images in the popular GIF image file format. Maxey was reported to admit to a daily income of over $8000 from his 64-line TBBS system in Lake Oswego Oregon.

On March 28, ***Playboy Magazine*** filed suit in Oregon against Event Horizons citing willful copyright infringement. The suit alleged that Event Horizons allowed copyrighted photographs to be scanned into its computer system and subsequently made those images available for download by modem. The suit names Event Horizons and James Maxey as defendants.

In a released statement, Playboy general council Howard Shapiro said" "Event Horizons never obtained authorization to copy or publish Playboy's copyrighted works and has never compensated Playboy for doing so, although it has profited from bulletin board user fees and disk sales. In using the words 'Playboy' and 'Playmate' in image descriptions, Event Horizons has indicated its awareness of Playboy's ownership of the photographs. We are filing this suit because Event Horizons continued to use Playboy's photographs after repeatedly being asked to cease publication of all Playboy-owned works."

The suit was settled out of court on September 11, 1992. Although many of the detailed terms of the settlement were not disclosed, Event Horizons admitted to copyright infringement as part of settlement, and paid a settlement fee of **$500,000** to Playboy.

According to operator Jim Maxey, despite the punishing size of the settlement, he's happy to have the six months of dealing with lawyers behind him. While the legal responsibilities of BBS operators regarding copyrights to unidentified GIF images remains a thorny issue in the online world, Maxey avows that he intends to restructure his system to provide only GIF images for which he has actually purchased the rights from the photographer. He's already establishing relationships with several photographers that produce excellent work and intends to continue operating Event Horizons - if anything an increasingly popular system with callers.

Maxey is also hard at work scanning photographs taken at ONE BBSCON to produce a ONE BBSCON GIF Collection. It will be interesting to see how THOSE develop - and everyone we saw there was fully clothed. Event Horizons, 311 Ave. B., Suite 209, Lake Oswego, OR, 97034; **(503)697-7700** voice; **(503)697-5100** data; **(503)636-0495** fax.

PCBOARD LOWERS PRICES - ADDS MHS GATEWAY

Clark Development Company, Inc. announced a restructuring of their pricing for PCBoard software effective September 7. PCBoard will no longer be sold in a single node version. Under the new pricing, a 2 node version with door capabilities is now **$170**. Previous 3, 6, and 9 node versions have been replaced with a single 10-node version for **$340**. The 25 and 99 node versions have been supplanted by a 100 node version priced at **$680**. A new 250 node version is available at **$1000** and a 1000 node version is priced at **$2500.** Versions in excess of 1000 nodes are available by special request.

According to Fred Clark, president of Clark Development, "Our tremendous increase in sales volume now enables us to offer our customers more value for their money while at the same time greatly simplifying their upgrade migration to expanded node versions of our software."

Eight lines, one computer...

No problem.

Introducing Wildcat! IM The new 'Intelligent Multi-Port' version of WILDCAT! is a special release designed for BBS installations requiring up to 8 incoming lines on a single PC, with or without LAN connectivity. Multiple PCs of 8 lines each can be connected in a LAN setting, up to the maximum of 250 nodes. WILDCAT! 'IM' shares all the features and functionality of the rest of the WILDCAT! product line, while taking advantage of the most popular intelligent multi-port serial cards in the industry, the DigiChannel COM/8i, PC/8e or PC/8i.

More Than Just 8 Lines The eight-line per PC capabilities of WILDCAT! IM are just the beginning. In a LAN setting you can set up multiple 8-line systems combined with local connectivity for all your network users. A 16 or even 32 line BBS now takes only a fraction of the space required previously, and adds the convenience of local LAN access.

Wildcat! IM Packages WILDCAT! IM is only available in a 250 node configuration, and is priced at $799. A special WILDCAT! IM+ package, which includes WILDCAT! IM software, DESQview 386/QEMM and a DigiChannel COM/8i serial card and cable, is package priced at $1,999.

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SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

COMPUTER

An 80386/33 is the minimum system required for operation. As the number of BBS lines and line speeds increase, faster processing may be needed. An 80486 system will operate all eight lines at full throughput, even with the newest high-speed modems.

MEMORY

A minimum of 8MB of RAM is required. To improve file access speed, additional RAM can be utilized for virtual RAM drives and disk cache.

MULTI-PORT BOARD

The WILDCAT! IM version is specifically designed to operate with intelligent serial port cards from Digi International, Inc. The DigiChannel COM/8i, PC/8e or PC/8i cards make use of on-board microprocessor support for communication activities.

MULTI-TASKING

The multi-tasking chores on a WILDCAT! IM installation are handled by DESQview 386 from Quarterdeck Office Systems.

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See your local software dealer or call MSI at 800-999-9619 for product information.

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P.O. Box 2264 Bakersfield, CA 93303

Under the new plan, current PCBoard customers can upgrade to the new software at no cost if their support is current on the Salt Air BBS system. The PCBoard DEMO system now supports 2-nodes and a door program, and upgrading to the complete package has been simplified.

In addition to the node count realignment, the system has added several minor feature improvements including a "Pacific Rim" version of the software to support Asian languages, enhanced code operation under OS/2 2.0, resumable batch transfer file capabilities, enhanced network control file, and the ability to broadcast information to all callers currently online.

Clark also confided that development of the next version 15.0 release is progressing extremely well and will have a complete new look and feel along with many new features requested by users.

The company also announced a new add-on program titled **PCBoard MHS Gateway** allowing the exchange of electronic mail between PCBoard BBS software and **Novell's Message Handling System**. Novell's MHS is the underlying format for virtually all e-mail systems that can operate on Novell's Netware local area network. So PCB-MHS effectively interfaces PCBoard to any Novell electronic mail package. PCB-MHS will notify PCBoard users of new mail, automatically convert user names between the LAN and the BBS, include file attachments, effortless replies, and support for multiple PCBoard conferences. Effectively, this allows outside callers to dial the PCBoard system and correspond with users on an internal office LAN, with PCBoard acting as a secure channel to prevent access to the LAN itself.

Developed by Merlin Systems, Inc., the new **PCB-MHS** package is priced at **$275**. Clark Development Company, Inc., PO Box 571365, Murray, UT 84107; **(800)356-1686** orders; **(801)261-1686** voice/technical; **(801)261-8976** BBS.

THE ZyXEL U-1496 MODEM - AN ELECTRONIC SWISS ARMY KNIFE FOR TECHNOIDS.

Dr. Shin Chu, a Taiwanese national, worked for Bell Laboratories and Bell Communications Research from 1981 to 1987. He returned to Taiwan in 1987 and with a group of other engineers worked on the universal high speed modem project.

The result was a modem he called the **ZyXEL** (pronounced ZIE-SELL). Introduced in August, 1991, it is marketed by ZyXEL USA here in the United States. This modem is of original design and doesn't use any of the common chipsets from Rockwell or AT&T. It uses digital signal processors and basically an on board computer to perform a variety of communication chores. The unit first caught our attention nearly a year ago but it went through quite a shakedown cruise to work out the firmware to the point where it really worked with the other modems out there and implemented all features.

We recently received both a **U-1496** and a **U-1496E** model for evaluation, with the latest software and firmware included. This modem was so unusual, and the developers making such fantastic claims regarding features, that we almost dreaded opening the box. Evaluating modems can be a good bit of work, and when they are a bit unusual design, even more so. There are a lot of ways to break a modem.

But the result in this case was a very unusual modem device so loaded with features it comprises a virtual treasure box of surprises - particularly for the technically inclined. This modem does EVERYTHING - even some things there may not be a need to do. But it is a LOT of fun to play with.

First, the modem comes in several models. We looked at the U-1496 and U-1496E. Additionally, there is an internal circuit card model and a rack mount model. In function, generally the U-1496 and U-1496E are similar - with different display functions. The E model is loaded with LED status indicators - actually a full dozen of them. The U-1496 model has but six LEDs, but it does have a two-line, 20-character LCD display. There are a few slightly enhanced functions in the U-1496 model as well, but none too significant. The main difference is a more elegant case for the U-1496, this display, and four menu buttons on the front panel.

We fell head over heals in love with the U-1496 and this two line LCD display is the biggest part of why. The modem prints status messages out on this display in vast and profuse quantity. Oddly, we found them actually pretty understandable - and useful. The top line of the display normally displays messages about the connection. It shows that it is dialing, what number it is dialing, that it is handshaking, and what link it connects with. More than any modem we've seen, this one adjusts its data rate both up and down quite freely to adjust to changing line conditions.

The basics you might expect were a 14.4kbps V.32bis modulation ability, with V.42/42bis and MNP 5 error correction and compression. But like the new U.S. Robotics models, the modem also features a special proprietary 16.8kbps mode, and the company claims a 19.2kbps mode will be released in firmware upgrade within a few months.

The bottom line of the display indicates the actual data throughput - transmitted data on the left and received data on the right - in bits per second. These are instantaneous values, but we measured throughput on large file downloads with a stopwatch and found the indicated values unchallengeable with regards to accuracy.

A series of four buttons on the front panel actually lets you program this modem to do anything you can do with an AT command set. But the left and right buttons let you cycle to OTHER information displays while the modem is operating. The second screen, again two lines, is even more informative. It lists **SN** and a numeric value for example. This is the signal-to-noise ratio experienced on the line, expressed in decibels - typically **26** to **27 dB**. Naturally, the higher the ratio of signal to background noise, the better. Next to the SN indication is an **RX** indication listing received signal strength in **dB** - typically **-25**

BULLETIN BOARD OPERATOR DISCOUNT PROGRAMS
V.32 and V.32bis Modems

VENDOR	MODEL	LIST	SYSOP	BBS	VOICE	FAX
ATI Technologies	ATI V.32	$699	$350	416-756-4591	416-756-0718	None
Cardinal Technologies	9600V42 V.32	$699	$269	717-293-3074	717-293-3000	None
Computer Peripherals	Viva 9624e V.32	$349	$249	805-499-9646	805-499-5751	805-498-8306
Galaxy Networks	UFO V.32bis	$999	$299	None	818-998-7851	818-998-1758
GVC Technologies	FM-9696/144V V.32bis	$689	$413	201-579-2380	201-579-3630	201-579-2702
GVC Technologies	SM-96V V.32	$599	$329	201-579-2380	201-579-3630	201-579-2702
Hayes Microcomputer	Ultra 144 V.32bis	$1199	$599	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Hayes Microcomputer	Optima 144+Fax	$499	$299	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Hayes Microcomputer	ISDN System Adapter	$1599	$799	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Image Communications	Twincomm 9600 V.32	$299	$279	None	201-935-8880	201-935-6548
Intel Corporation	14.4EX V.32bis	$549	$269	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Intel Corporation	9600EX V.32	$599	$299	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Multi-Tech Systems	MT932BA V.32	$869	$435	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Multi-Tech Systems	MT1432BA V.32bis	$899	$450	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Practical Peripherals	PM14400FXSA V.32bis	$549	$250	805-496-4445	818-706-0333	818-706-2474
Supra Corporation	SupraFAX V.32bis	$399	$249	503-967-2444	503-967-2400	503-967-2401
Supra Corporation	SupraFAX V.32	$299	$199	503-967-2444	503-967-2400	503-967-2401
Telebit Corporation	T3000 V.32bis	$949	$399	None	408-734-4333	408-734-3333
U.S. Robotics	HST/DS V.32bis	$1295	$449	708-982-5092	708-982-5010	None
Ven-Tel	EC96 V.32	$699	$439	408-922-0988	408-436-7400	408-436-7451
ZyXEL	U-1496 V.32bis	$650	$450	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	U-1496E V.32bis	$469	$299	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705

dBm. The display indicates **Phase Jitter** (PJ) in degrees to a tenth of a degree, and the **Frequency Offset** (FO) to the tenth of a Hertz.

The third display screen actually indicates how many retrains were requested and granted during the session, and the **Round Trip Echo Delay** characters experienced in their trip down the wire. Changing between these three diagnostic displays is as easy as reaching up and pressing an arrow key.

You can actually order this modem with **X** and **Y** axis outputs to connect to an oscilloscope to actually watch cats-eye or constellation diagrams on an oscilloscope screen.

Most online aficionados don't need and won't understand this information - all true. But we ate it up and any of the engineering types still lurking online will too. This modem is virtually a telephone line test set. You can tell more about what is going on with your call, or with a call INTO your BBS, with this device than any modem we've ever played with. Within two days of having it out of the box, no one here wanted to address line condition problems or troubleshoot caller difficulties without first plugging the ZyXEL in to see what was REALLY happening. There have very nearly been fist fights at Boardwatch over who gets to use this modem.

The quality of connection to a variety of other modem brands in various parts of the country was flawless. On really noisy lines, it drops down to 9600, or 7200, but it keeps on trying to sneak back up to the higher speeds whenever conditions allow. It may be that other modems are equally aggressive in trying to get maximum speed from a line, but the ZyXEL makes the effort visible through the LCD display. We never saw noise on the screen. The connection appears flawless.

So the ZyXEL really does do a fantastic job of transmitting data, and it shows you what it is doing via the LCD all the time in real time. That would be enough for us to love this box. But it hardly scratches the surface of what they've put in this box. A few of the high points:

FAX. Both modems feature a facsimile function. It actually operates at up to 14.4kbps in fax mode and honors all Class 2 fax functions. We plugged it into a system that had been using Delrina's Winfax Pro software under windows. We like this package, but it can be a bit touchy about setup with most modems. We'll never know with the ZyXEL. We didn't have to set it up. The software and modem held a brief conversation and it has worked flawlessly ever since. We can fax graphics, text, anything under any Windows program, without giving it another thought.

But the modem did come with a diskette of software, and we felt honor bound to at least list the directory once. It was full of setup files for various software programs, and a program titled ZFAX. ZFAX does a number of things, including fax things. Among the files was a program titled **SFAX.EXE.** On a guess, we entered **SFAX READ.ME 986-8754**. The modem actually faxed a standard ASCII text readme file from the diskette to our fax machine flawlessly and with no apparent time to convert the ASCII text to any graphics format. It just sent it. It would be trivial to set this up on one node of a BBS, and when it wasn't servicing data calls, have it faxing plain ASCII text messages to fax machines per caller direction.

The modem can also automatically detect whether an incoming call is fax or data, and the documentation describes

setup functions for Wildcat! BBS systems, for example, to allow it to actually RECEIVE faxes or connect to the BBS depending solely on the type of call. It can also work in similar fashion with an external fax machine.

DISTINCTIVE RINGING

Additionally, and by that we mean not only, but also again differently, the modem actually has firmware to detect distinctive ringing patterns on incoming lines. Most telephone companies now offer a product often referred to as distinctive ringing. Each teleco titles the service somewhat differently: US West - **Custom Ringing**; Pacific Bell - **Intercom Plus**; Bell South - **Ring Master**; Nynex - **Ring Mate**; Southwestern Bell - **Personalized Ringing**; Ameritech - **Call Identification Service**; Bell Atlantic - **IdentaRing**; and GTE - **Smart Ring**. The primary market for this seems to be families living under the terrorism of resident adolescence. The product gives you a second telephone number which makes the telephone ring distinctively with a double "ring-ring" as opposed to the normal "ring" sound. Callers dialing the normal telephone number cause it to ring normally. Callers dialing the alternate telephone number cause the double ring. You can even have a third number that causes yet a third distinctive ring pattern. In this way, the teen telephone terror can give their friends the alternate number and when the phone rings, everyone will know to whom the incoming call is ultimately destined. On a single line, different telephone numbers caused distinctly different ringing patterns.

The distinctive ringing feature is usually priced at **$4-$9** per month - substantially cheaper than a second telephone line. And this function can be turned to excellent advantage for voice/data/fax applications. We've written in the past about distinctive ring detectors that route calls to different devices based on the type of ring received. With the ZyXEL, you don't need the devices. It can be programmed with a simple AT command to answer either normal ringing patterns, or any of the three other distinctive rings offered by telephone companies. In this way, you can have one number for a BBS and another for voice or fax use - on the same line. If callers dial the data number, the ZyXEL answers. If they dial the other number, it won't and you can answer the call yourself by voice.

CALLER ID

Again, an advanced telephone service offered in some areas. This incoming caller ID function causes the callers name and telephone number to be transmitted between rings in data format before you answer the call. The ZyXEL will capture and display this information on the LCD and pass it to your software program through the serial port if you so specify. You don't need caller ID display units when you use this modem.

SECURITY CALL BACK.

The security options on this modem are just amazing. For BBS use, we don't like the call back verifier programs. But for certain private or company applications, security can be a big concern. The ZyXEL has five different security options.

Simple passwording is the most basic. When a caller dials in, the MODEM actually prompts them for a password and allows three attempts before hanging up. Up to ten passwords can be defined in the modem's memory. There are actually two versions of this feature. One will work with ANY in dialing modem. The other works only with other ZyXEL modems. Between two ZyXEL modems, the passwords can be programmed on both ends and the modems do the passwording between them without any caller action at all. Calls from other modem brands require the caller to manually enter the password to gain access.

These two modes can also be combined with callback verification. The ZyXEL actually has TWO internal password tables, one with the ten passwords, and the other with ten associated dial back numbers. With call back verification, the caller dials in, and enters his password. If the password is valid, the ZyXEL hangs up, looks up the associated dial back telephone number internally, and then places a call back to that number to initiate the session.

Finally, there is a security mode where the caller is prompted for a password. If they enter one of the ten passwords in memory, they are then prompted for a dialback number, and they can manually enter the telephone number they want to be dialed at.

The result is a very flexible, powerful, and totally secure suite of security options. Security modems used to carry quite a price premium. The ZyXEL comes with.

VOICE MAIL

This modem began to look almost spooky the more we looked at it. We found a text file describing a voice function not documented in the book we received with the modem. Basically, you can record voice messages to your hard disk with this modem and some supplied software. Simply plug a telephone handset into the dial-in line RJ-11 jack and enter a few commands, and the modem records voice to a file on your hard drive. It offers THREE different compression methods (two on the 1496E model) and we found all of them produced clearly understandable voice. Even with compression, the files get a bit largish - about 60KB for a five second recording.

But the voice functions are fairly flexible. We found we could enter commands and have the modem dial a telephone number and actually DELIVER a voice message. With this, you could easily setup your computer to deliver a wakeup call at a certain time, call you if you got a message from a particular person, etc.

The system can also record voice messages from callers. It can answer the telephone and deliver a voice message. It could even DECODE TOUCH TONE RESPONSES and switch to fax, data, or voice mode based on what key on the touchtone pad the caller pressed! You could design an entire audio bulletin board based on recorded files and touch tone operation with this modem and a terminal script.

This box serves superbly as a top quality modem. But it works even better as a toy for technoids. We can't stop fooling with it and at one point, Gary Funk was down to typing things like "get tea" and "turn on lights" at the terminal just to see if we were missing anything. ZyXEL offers a FIVE YEAR warranty on these modems and a very attractive system operator discount. The list price

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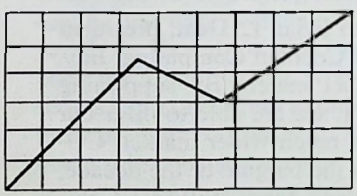

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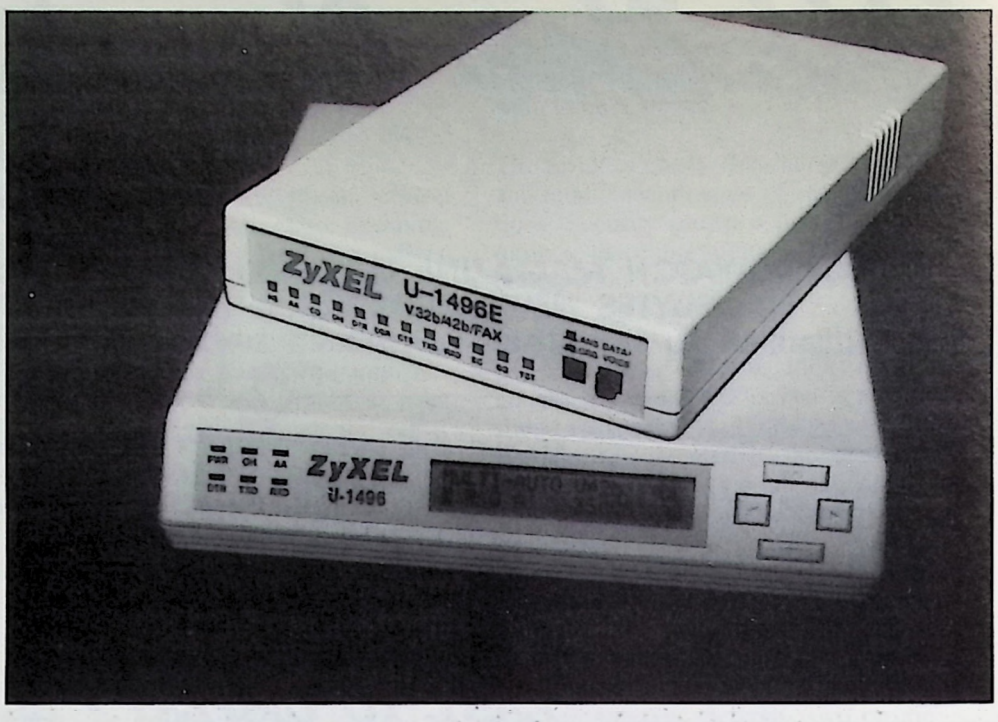
on the U-1496 is $650 while the U-1496E is $469. For qualified BBS operators, these units are discounted to $450 and $299 respectively.

ZERO ONE NetWorking operates an excellent product support BBS at (714)693-0762 using Wildcat! software. This system contains dozens of setup files for different software programs, tips, a PCX file of the U-1496 circuit board layout, and more.

To qualify for the BBS operator discount, you do have to display a notice to all callers that your system supports ZyXEL modems. The company is sponsoring a very unusual contest through **October 12** where anyone can submit an ANSI art screen sysops will be allowed to use for this purpose. The entries must be uploaded with a completed form (available from the BBS) to the support BBS by 3 PM Pacific Time, October 12, 1992. But the prizes are extremely attractive. The company is offering **$2500 cash**, a ZyXEL U-1496 modem and Winfax Pro fax software, a total **$3384** value to the winning entry. Second prize of **$1500** plus a ZyXEL U-1496E model modem and Winfax software. Ten runner-ups will receive ZyXEL U-1496E modems. Anyone can enter, and anyone who does enter can take a whopping **40%** discount from the list price of the modems whether they are a sysop or not - limited to one modem. This sounds like you can get a single U-1496 modem for **$390** just by submitting an ANSI logon prompt entry in the contest. You are not required to purchase anything to enter the contest.

To illustrate the technical elegance of this modem, recall our article on the Hayes brouhaha over their fixed guard time escape sequence under the **Heatherington 302** patent. Hayes has licensed numerous modem manufacturers to use this escape sequence. A few have not licensed it and often, their modems will escape to command mode while transmitting files containing +++ escape sequences. Hayes caused something of a furor in July by releasing a text file that if transmitted by many modems that don't use the guard time escape sequence technique, would abort the transfer and improperly escape to command mode. Multitech's modems fail the test rather awkwardly. The ZyXEL modem does NOT license the



ZyXEL U-1496 and U-1496E Modems

Hayes escape sequence. According to Gordon Yang, they use a proprietary variable sampling algorithm that does the job at least as well. We tried the ZyXEL on the Hayes test file - and sure enough, it worked like a champ. ZyXEL appears to have engineered a way around the escape sequence controversy. Yang indicates that they could conceivably publish the algorithm. If they did, this would take some serious steam out of the Hayes licensing program.

Bottom line, this ZyXEL modem is one of the best we've ever used. Our highest recommendation. ZERO ONE NetWorking, 4920 East La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807; **(714)693-0808** voice; **(714)693-0705** fax; **(714)693-0762** BBS.

NEWSLETTER ADDRESSES MAKING MONEY WITH YOUR MODEM

Alan Bechtold, founder of BBS Press Service and previously publisher of the online electronic weekly INFOMAT, has announced publication of a new monthly industry newsletter aimed at the growing BBS industry. MONEY WITH YOUR MODEM, an 8-page monthly newsletter will provide instructions on setting up a BBS for profit. MONEY WITH YOUR MODEM is available at a charter subscription rate of **$99** per year. The offer includes an unconditional 30-day money-back guarantee. BBS Press Service, 8125 SW 21st Street, Topeka, KS 66615; **(913)478-3157** voice; **(913)478-9239** data.

COCONUT ANNOUNCES COCONET 4.0 FOR COHERENT

Coconut Computing, Inc. has announced at ONE BBSCON support for **COHERENT**, a **$99** operating system patterned after UNIX, to its upcoming release of **COCONET Version 4.0**. The Mark Williams Company, makers of COHERENT, recently released a powerful 32-bit version of COHERENT making such support possible.

According to Brian L. Dear, president and CEO of Coconut Computing, Inc., "It's a perfect match. By supporting COHERENT, we are able to offer our product to a much wider market. COHERENT is the bargain of the decade, and we applaud Mark Williams Company for adding the 32-bit power while maintaining an affordable price."

COCONET is Coconut's multi-user, graphics-based conferencing and bulletin board system software for running online information services on 386 or 486 based PC's. COCONET is designed for systems requiring heavy use of artwork, illustrations, logos, and graphics online. The graphics are rendered on the COCONET Access Program running on each user's PC.

The price of COCONET has also been revised to **$395** for a 2-user version, **$495** for a 4-user version, **$695** for 8 users, **$995** for 16 users, **$1395** for 32 users, **$1895** for 64 users, and **$2495** for unlimited users.

The company also announced an add-on product titled **CocoMedia Version 1.0** with two modules, one for graphics and one for audio. The graphics module adds support for the JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) compressed images. JPEG is increasingly winning wide-spread industry support as a digital image compression technology across most computer platforms. The audio module allows the host program to send audio files to callers equipped with the Sound Blaster line of PC audio boards from Creative Labs, Inc. CocoMedia 1.0 is priced at **$195.** Coconut Computing, Inc., 7946 Ivanhoe Ave., Suite 303, La Jolla, CA 92037; **(619)456-2002** voice, **(619)456-0815** BBS

SOFTWARE NOTES

MAILING LABELS - FIRST CLASS

by Thom Foulks

This is a Runtime Review of MyAdvancedLabelDesigner for Windows from MySoftware Co.

Every BBS SysOp trying to nourish and build a user base eventually resorts to -- perish the thought -- direct mail, and a need for a mailing list. Maybe just to send a Christmas Card to online-absentees, or more seriously to dun delinquent subscribers.

That's why we call to your attention, MyAdvancedLabelDesigner. Immediately, let's eliminate formalities, and call it MALD. It is MySoftware Co.'s strongest entry yet into the Windows software marketplace and thankfully (whew!), they didn't try to insert Windows into the name as well. (Maybe that's because there's also a version available for the Macintosh).

This reviewer considers himself highly skilled at WordPerfect, Word for Windows and even an ancient version of WordStar. But I've yet to see one of the word processors that can combine addressee data, imported graphics, customizable label layout tools, with selective addressee printouts, into the same intuitive function. That's what MALD does.

It can import any comma-delimited file for address data, and the label layout can include scalable graphics from the most common DOS and Mac graphics formats. The layout power on a given label design is almost too inviting -- MALD leaves you tinkering, instead of getting on with the printout.

Anecdote: While I was testing various MALD capabilities, a fellow computer consultant visited -- long enough to spend about five minutes looking over my shoulder. He asked to borrow my phone, dialed MySoftware's 800 number, and ordered his own copy. (And he cut his computing eye teeth on FORTRAN...)

MALD gives you full visual control over the layout of your labels. That includes about every category of label known to man, from standard mailing label designs to audio (or video) cassette labels to name tags for your next political rally. More than 100 menu-selectable label designs are built-in, and any can be customized almost infinitely.

All popular database management systems produce comma-delimited ASCII files, and MALD gulps them in with intuitive pre-positioning of the data fields. So the data came in last-name-first? -- OK, a couple of mouse click-and-drags and the fields are moved around on your design so the printout is first-name, first. No visually-absurd wide spacing between the first and last names, either -- click on the "pack" option, and MALD compresses the output into one-space-separated addressees. And, an "overflow" check routine tells you before print time if a given name will not fit in its allotted space.

Of course, you CAN type in the mailing list -- and THEN export it, comma-delimited to whatever database system...ready for integrated use.

The REAL fun of using MALD is with the basic design of the label. It imports and scales graphics from several standard DOS-Windows formats including .PXC, .WFM, .EPS, .PS, and .GIF; and can easily handle 2-3 logos on the same label design. (Some 50 clip art images ship with the product.)

MySoftware brags that MALD supports color printers (for mailing labels?) but my tests were more prosaic. Tested on both a dot-matrix and HP LaserJet II compatible, MALD performed flawlessly (on two-across mailing labels, audio My testing did turn up an obscure bug -- when exporting data, MALD gets confused on a no-data field in a given record, and replicates the data from the preceding record. (dBASE II had a propensity for the same kind of bug.)

I can't find the manual that I THINK came with MALD. As with most newer Windows products, flipping pages in a manual simply can't match key-clicking for online help. The help files seem amply adequate; but this is a smart, sin-

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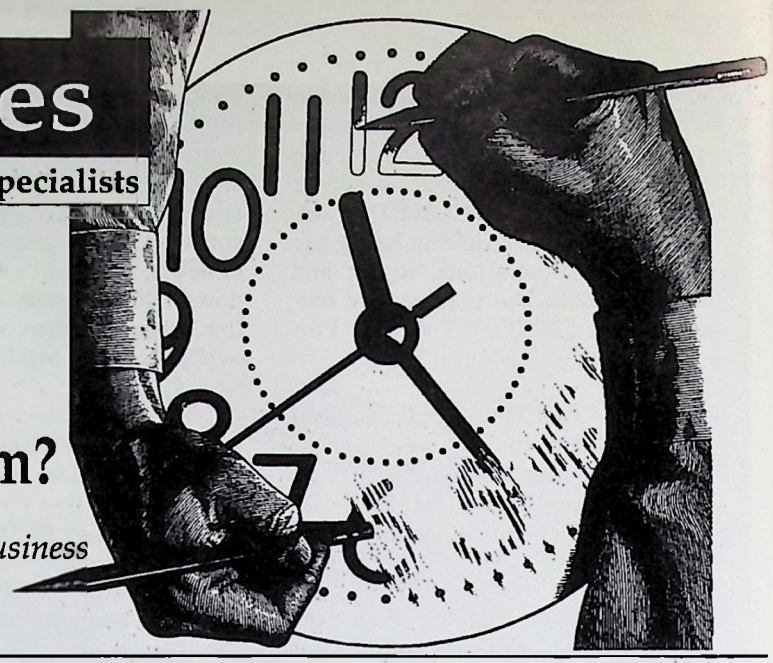

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The STATistics Series

All SysOps want to know as much as possible about their systems and the STAT series is designed to report everything you want to know about your TBBS system and user activities. TSTAT analyzes your dayfile data, USTAT analyzes your user activities, FSTAT tracks upload and download statistics and MSTAT works with TIMS to analyze mailer activity. Each STAT module is $39.95, package pricing applies on more than one module. (And look for TBILL, the most comprehensive TBBS billing utility available.)

ProMenu

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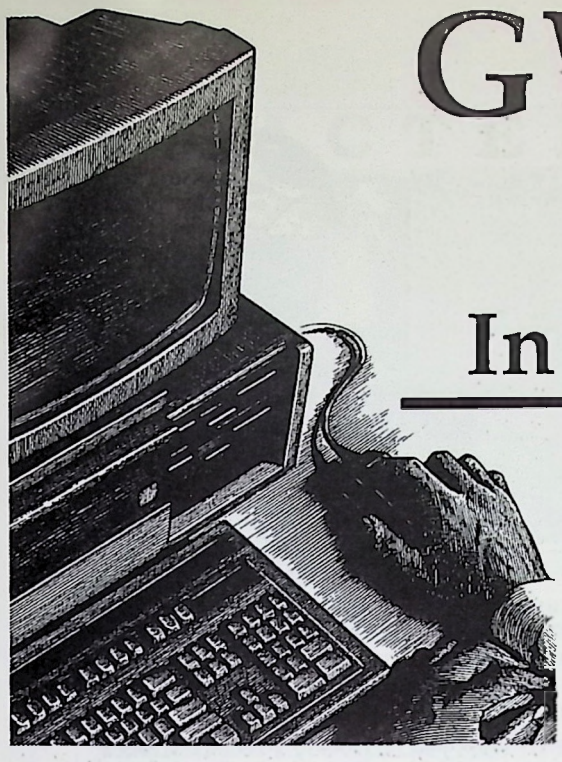

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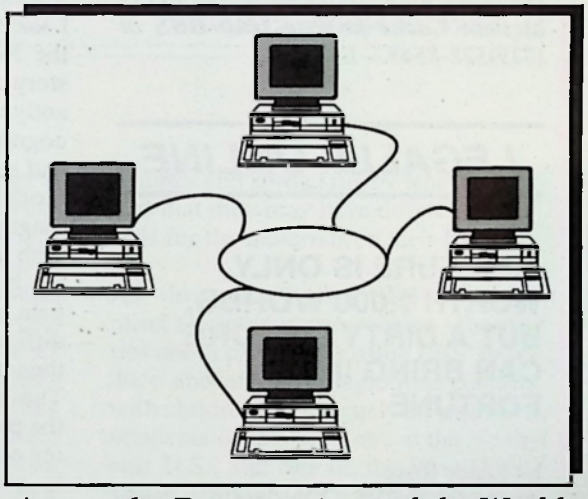

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[*Thom Foulks has served as a computer consultant, founding host of Computing Success! radio show, and columnist. Foulks also wrote his own Message Hub BBS software package and operates the Cache la Byte Hub BBS at (719)528-8545. - Ed*]

LEGALLY ONLINE

A PICTURE IS ONLY WORTH 1,000 WORDS, BUT A DIRTY PICTURE CAN BRING IN A FORTUNE

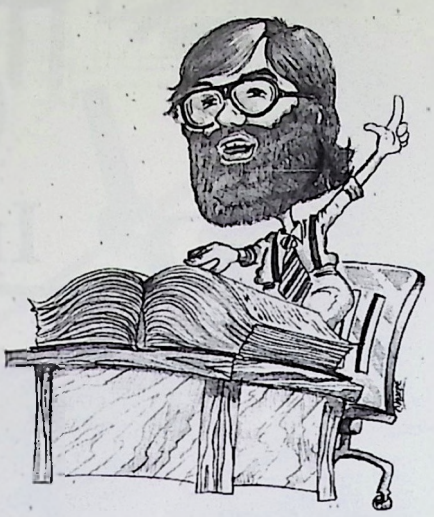
by Lance Rose

At the ONE BBS CON last August in Denver, a good many people singled me out as a lawyer and prodded me with a variety of BBS legal questions. The most popular subject, by a wide gap, was whether it is legal for BBS' to handle so-called "adult" materials in the form of image files, animations and text files. The attitudes of the questioners were fairly consistent: they carried adult materials on their BBS' and planned to continue doing so. They wanted a magic formula, a rule of thumb, to help them feel a little more secure against the possibility of being busted by the vice squad. Oh, and their BBS' were pumping out good money - ranging from very good money to extremely good money - from their adult file activities. With business so good, who would dream of stopping?

Over and over, I explained that although we have 1st Amendment protection for texts and files on bulletin boards, the Supreme Court decided this protection does not apply to obscene materials, at least when they're knowingly distributed. Therefore, BBS' carrying hardcore sexual materials are at some risk of being raided and shut down at any time. Many of the questioners did not want to hear this. After all, making money is its own justification, and some of these people were making a living and even supporting families from the adult BBS business. Besides, they said over and over, they had not heard even a peep from the police - so it must be okay! What had me stumped was how these people could see the screen displays of their BBS computer systems with their heads in the sand.

My first day back from the convention, I learned that a television newscast in the New York City area had told the story of a boy of about 13 who apparently had downloaded a number of pornographic images from various BBS' and stored them on his hard disk - the modern equivalent of hiding dirty magazines under the bed. Coming clean with his mother and the news reporters, the boy told how he had been able to gain entry into the BBS' without much difficulty despite his tender age, and then downloaded bunches of racy files. The news report showed examples of the pictures in question, artfully blocking out just enough of the juicy portions to avoid its own obscenity problems while maximizing audience titillation. It closed with the ominous statement that government investigations into the problem were starting up.

All this interest in BBS pornography prompted me to get in touch with Nick DeWolf, who runs the NixPix BBS in Colorado. He had promised me at ONE BBS that he could tell me horror stories about the problems other adult BBS' were facing. He came up with a couple of good ones (these stories are based on Nick's account, and were not independently verified).



First was the story of the Amateur Action BBS in Palo Alto, CA, which has already received some airing on the computer networks. The sysop makes available collector's images of nude girls and sexual materials dating back to at least the 1940's. Many of the women in these pictures were girlish looking, apparently conforming to the sysop's tastes in such things. A member of the religious right had a look at these pictures, and reported to the police that the BBS was involved in child pornography.

The police raided the home of the Amateur Action sysop and hauled out all the computer equipment they could find, including his kids' video games. In the meantime, the sysop contacted the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and with their assistance came up with a powerful legal weapon against the police raiders. He pointed out that the BBS contained the private electronic mail of hundreds of callers, and that the police department was potentially liable for big legal damages for failing to get the proper warrant for the seizure of such materials. Shortly afterward, the BBS equipment and files were returned, with the police conclusion that nothing illegal had been found. In this case, at least, the sysop survived the raid, though reportedly he suffered a great loss of business and money.

The other story, an eerie one, involves a BBS in the Southeast U.S. This BBS carried pornographic images and text files. Again, some people of fundamentalist leanings found out about the BBS' contents, and tried to shut it down. First,

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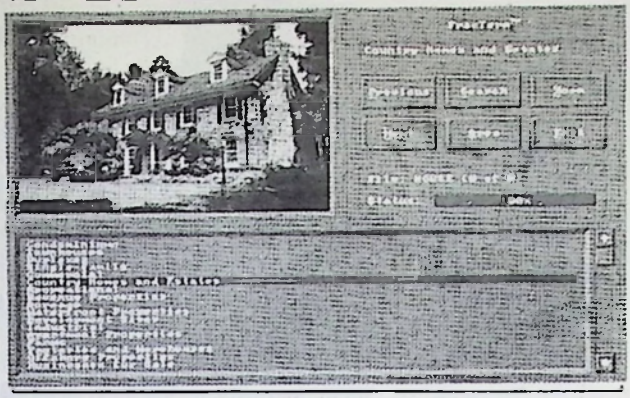

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they tried obvious means, such as contacting the police and the FCC, but they would not take action against the BBS. Then the crusaders got creative, and contacted some government agency concerned with family and health matters. They obtained some kind of order from this agency directing the BBS sysops, a married couple, to shut down their BBS or face being judged unfit parents and having their children taken away! The BBS went down, at least temporarily, but at last report the sysops are fighting tooth and nail to keep their BBS going without being censored, and without losing their kids.

The teller of the stories, Nick DeWolf, feels great sympathies for the plights of these sysops. He is in the same business, and believes that BBS operators should have the right to maintain sexually oriented files. After all, people are very interested in this material - so why should it be illegal to give them what they want? For Nick there's a matter of principle at stake - a principle very similar, in fact, to the 1st Amendment.

But Nick knows the 1st Amendment is not officially recognized to apply to obscenity. He's further convinced that many of the government agents across the country are on a mission to shut down adult BBSs', with extreme violence to people's Constitutional protections against search and seizure if necessary. Their latest tactic to fan the fires of intolerance, he says, is the "kiddie porn" angle, a real political hot button in our country today. Show that a BBS arguably is distributing child pornography, and it will be shut down faster than you can blink, procedural niceties aside. For his own protection, Nick recently toned down the material on his own BBS a notch or two. Now, he says, the sexual materials on his BBS are no more hard core than what's available in the local video store in his neighborhood. For example, and without getting into any graphic details, he will now allow no pictures of "fisting" on his BBS. He only carries pictures of the kinds of sexual activities that take place in the majority of people's homes in this country. Nick also wants to point out that there are other NixPix BBS' in this country and abroad run by other sysops, and that they may have different standards for the materials on their BBS'.

All this talk of porn BBS' brings to mind a related popular theme - the stories about pedophiles using BBS' to seduce and arrange illegitimate contacts with children. I'm vaguely aware of two incidents of this sort, one in the Northeast U.S., and one on the West Coast. These incidents are not documented in easily accessible form, and they are hardly the makings of a fad.

Yet law enforcement agents around the country are peculiarly attuned to these activities. Some have, in their own minds, blown the connection between BBS' and pedophilia way out of proportion. They seem to think that deterring pedophilia is a major objective in any comprehensive police agenda regarding BBS'. This approach fits in well with the older concept of a BBS as a dark little switchboard where sneaky misfits can hatch all manner of secret and illicit schemes. But stepping back to reality, this official fixation with pedophilia on BBS' is a hysteria-inducing belief that

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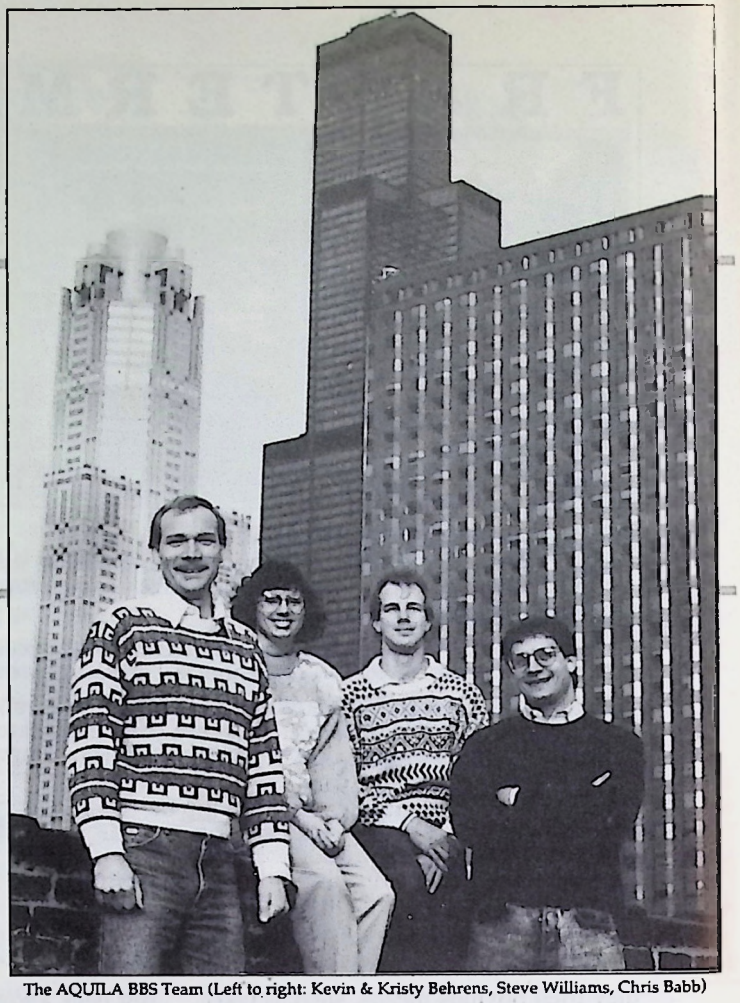

The AQUILA BBS Team (Left to right: Kevin & Kristy Behrens, Steve Williams, Chris Babb)

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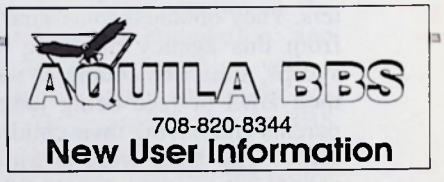

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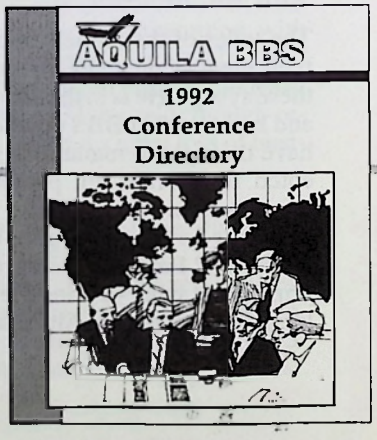

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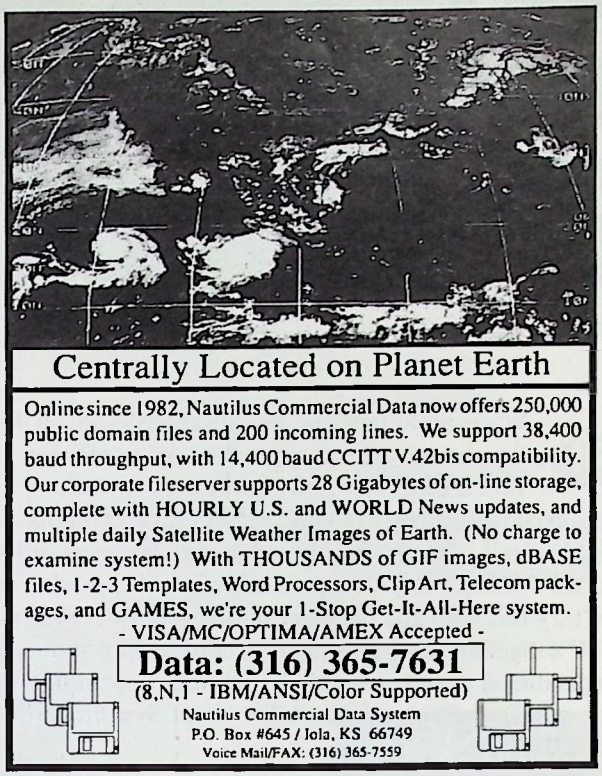
only obstructs attempts to educate law enforcement agents and others to see BBS' as an important and useful part of the community.

Why do so many BBS' carry adult materials? For one thing, adult BBS' are making money. At this early stage in the development of the small commercial BBS, sysops are still casting around, some desperately, for ways to make their BBS' at least self-supporting. It is now widely known that adult materials are practically a sure ticket to financial success. The BBS entrepreneur then only has to decide if running the online equivalent of an adult bookstore is the business he or she wants to be in. Support businesses have already sprung up - one now sees advertisements for CD-ROMs chock full of self-described X-rated image files, so you can instantly fill a brand-new BBS with endless titillation. Many sysops do it according to a plan. They will create a user base and revenue stream for their BBS business with the help of pornographic materials, then gradually remove the pornography in favor of other kinds of files and activities.

There are also sysops who want to carry adult materials regardless of whether they make money from it. Some BBS' carrying sexually oriented files also offer related services, such as chat and posting services specifically geared toward those with alternative life styles. Interestingly, it's been said that despite the availability of realtime features such as a live chat service, many callers still prefer just to download static image files for their own enjoyment.

Sysops who carry adult materials place themselves at some risk of legal action, as illustrated by the stories told above. Roughly speaking, the more extreme the materials, the greater the risk. Much of the risk is from concerned parents and moral zealots in the BBS' own local community and telephone exchange. There is also a more nebulous risk - the potential for liability based on permitting out-of-state callers to the BBS to download adult materials. This is of special concern where the callers come from communities where the local standards for obscenity are stricter than those in the sysop's own community.



To my knowledge, BBS' have not yet been made subject to out- of-state criminal actions for pornography, but it is all too easy to imagine. Mail-order adult magazine businesses have been subjected to out-of-state legal actions, sometimes two or more at the same time against a single business in attempts by federal agents to litigate it right out of business. There was also a case in which a transmitter of sexual images by satellite was sued in one of the states in which the images could be received.

A factor that sometimes confuses the issue, and a fair number of sysops, is the Supreme Court's designation of two different types of sexual materials for First Amendment purposes. First, there's obscenity proper. This is material which is "appeals primarily to the prurient interest" under prevailing community standards, and has no redeeming value in an artistic, scientific or literary sense. Obscenity has no First Amendment protection, and federal and state governments can (and do) regulate or prohibit it any way they see fit.

Second, there's "indecent" material. Such material is also sexually oriented, but not so vulgar or unredeemable as to be obscene. Indecent material is considered protected by the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech, but is also deemed so disturbing to young psyches that it should be kept out of the sight of children. This is where the age verification schemes used by many BBS' come in. They are a way to let adults have access to indecent materials while denying access to children.

Many sysops seem to believe that such age verification schemes also validate maintaining obscene materials on their own BBS'. This is not so. Since indecent materials are protected by the First Amendment, BBS' are fully entitled to maintain them on their systems, as long as they also perform age verification to make sure children do not gain access to them. But obscene materials, not being protected by the First Amendment, are simply not permitted to be maintained on the BBS at all. Age verification will not protect the sysop from liability if his board is raided and obscene materials are discovered.

Another supposed defense, mistakenly invoked by some sysops, is based on a Supreme Court holding that individuals may legally possess obscene materials

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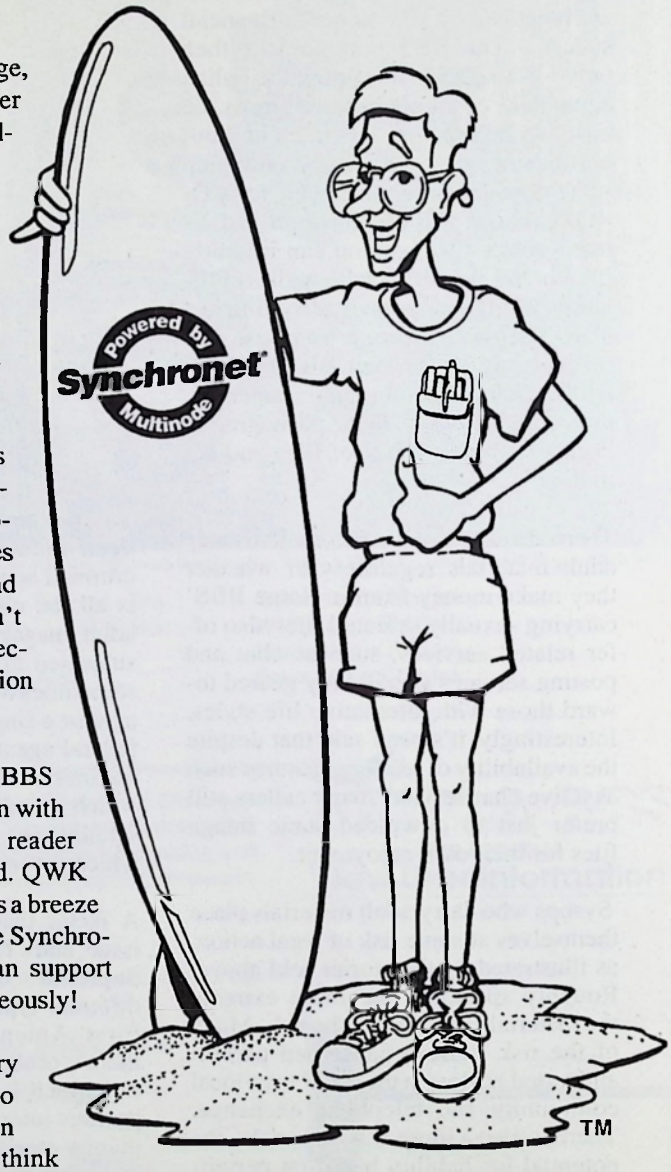

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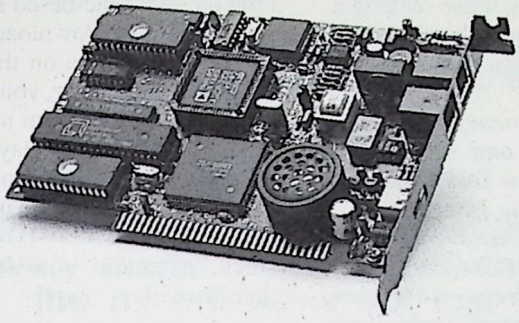

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in their own homes. This is perfectly true, but what's left unsaid is more important for BBS': the act of bringing or sending those materials into the home is fully punishable by the government. Since a BBS with obscene materials would be viewed as a provider of those materials to the home, the "within the home" exception would be unavailable.

Clearly it is illegal to maintain obscene materials on a BBS, but this raises another question - what is really so bad about it? Obscenity is a classic case of a victimless crime (apart from glaring exceptions like child pornography or snuff movies). Nobody gets hurt, except for the normal level of unpleasantness found in any industry, legitimate or otherwise. One could even proclaim BBS distribution of sexual materials a form of "safe sex" - absolutely incapable of making a girl pregnant, or giving anyone AIDS.

In another culture, perhaps, but not our good ol' U.S. model. One must take culture in the condition in which it is found, and ours is in a particularly repressive state right now, exacerbated by the fear of AIDS. The Vice President and some Hollywood actors and screenwriters are keeping the whole country enthralled, even as this column is written, with dramatic repartee about whether it's okay for a woman to raise a child without a man in the house. In this climate, we should hardly expect a lot of respect or understanding from the government for exotic new electronic forms of transmitting sexual materials. They are as likely as not to view it as just a sleazy kind of computer virus.

Sysops in the adult BBS business have a few choices in dealing with the current legal and moral regime. One approach is to simply jettison the adult materials. This approach was taken recently by The Garbage Dump BBS in Albuquerque, NM (505-294-5675) and Denver, CO (303-457-1111). They even issued a press release, declaring that all adult graphic files were purged from the system. The space freed up will be used for more shareware files, interactive chat, message areas and online games. The owners feel the move will eventually open up their service to a much wider audience, and get it out of the adult file ghetto. One week after the announcement and removal of the adult files, the owners report that only 2% of the users asked for a refund, and their total volume dropped only 10%, much less than the 20% drop they expected. As one of the owners put it, "Guess we didn't need that adult crap anyway." This is encouraging news for those sysops who are not particularly attached to the adult materials on their systems, but perhaps feel their presence necessary to sustain the BBS. The time to cut bait may be sooner than you thought . .

Another approach is that used by Nix-Pix, Nick DeWolfe's BBS. He got rid of the most extreme materials, and used local community standards, as exemplified by the local video store, as a kind of safe harbor guide to the kind of adult materials he feels safe keeping on his own system. This approach is attractive if you assume that the local police will likely have uniform attitudes to similar adult materials, regardless of whether

they're available in the video store or a BBS. The assumption may not hold, though. Police know video stores, and buy videos all the time themselves. They know from personal experience what kind of people run video stores, and what kind of people patronize them. This may not be equally true of the local BBS, unless some of the local police are also BBS callers. In any event, if a sysop retains any adult materials on the BBS, he should perform effective age verification procedures to make reasonably sure children cannot gain access to them.

Sysops should also consider getting together with the local police - and not just the adult BBS sysops, but a whole cross- section of sysops of different kinds of BBS'. An example of such a local get-together was described in last month's column on the Florida Sysops' Association. Personal meetings in a relaxed setting can help the police better understand and accept BBS' as a collection of non-threatening, useful and entertaining community services and businesses, and their sysops as regular guys down the street. It will also give sysops a close-up look at police attitudes about different BBS activities, and an understanding of where the lines of acceptable conduct would be drawn.

There are sysops who will continue to carry any and all materials that land on their boards. Their motivations range from active personal interest in adult materials of even the most extreme variety, to First Amendment absolutism, to simply a desire to extract as much money from the sleaze merchant trade as they can before the BBS is shut down for good - not entirely a homogeneous crew. They should all remain aware that, as mentioned before, age- verification is not a magic formula, and will not save them if they are popped for obscenity. Also, those who have heard there is a First Amendment principle protecting distributors from absolute liability for carrying obscene materials would be mistaken to rely on that doctrine, since it protects only those who inadvertently carry obscene materials, and not those who are aware of their obscene nature.

We have not been able to exhaust this topic in this column, but that's more than enough for the time being. Given the vibrant business many adult BBS' currently enjoy and their likely continuing pursuit of that enjoyment, and the moral outrage likely to surface from time to time over their activities, we will probably witness a number of different repressive government activities against adult BBS' in the future, raising a whole crop of issues we can not even imagine yet. Until then, those seeking a hot time on a Saturday night need look no further than their own computers.

[*Lance Rose is an attorney practicing high-tech, computer and intellectual property law in the New York City area, and is available on the Internet at elrose@well.sf.ca.us and on CompuServe at 72230,2044. He works with shareware publishers, software authors, system operators, technology buyers, interactive media developers, on-line database services and others in the high technology area. He is also author of the book SYSLAW, a legal guide for bulletin board system operators, available from PC Information Group (800)321-8285. - Editor*]

MACINTOSH BBS NEWS

by Bill Gram-Reefer

COMPRESSION STRATEGIES

Despite the introduction of **Salient's DiskDoubler** and, in early 1992, **AutoDoubler**, the discussion of file compression, at least within Macintosh BBS circles, sooner or later settles around two products: **Compact Pro** and some version of **StuffIt**. Why? Because the mode of file compression which optimizes disk space is a different breed from that file compression which optimizes transmission speed for uploads and downloads to/from BBSs; in sum, a crucial distinction for sysops, especially where fast (read inexpensive) file transfers can make your board a success. For while modems sporting V.42bis data compression can shrink and expand uncompressed files on the fly, that protocol can't do it as neatly or as speedily as already having the files compressed on the hard disk, ready to go; even groups of files, compressed as one self-extracting packet.

Another thoroughly related brain teaser has stumped the studio audience of Macintosh BBSing for some time. Here's the Final Jeopardy answer : "Until August,1992, if you wanted to create a file on your Mac-based BBS so that a subscriber could download and decompress that same file on their PC using **UNZIP** or **Extractor**, you had to create files in, or change them to this version of StuffIt. Remember, players, to phrase your answer in the form of a question." Beep beep, "O.K., times up!"

"Jack, what did you write on your slate?"

"Uh, what is PKZIP?"

"Sorry, Jack, wrong answer, er, question! PKZIP can be used to compress files on the PC. PKZIP files could be decompressed with StuffIt Deluxe or UNZIP version 1.10 on a Macintosh, but not the other way around. You must have been thinking of **MACZIP** the new shareware product that lets MACs create **ZIP** files, which was just released in August.

O.K., Bernie's our new leader. Let's see what his Final Jeopardy response is?"

"StuffIt 1.51!"

"That's correct, Bernie! But your response wasn't phrased in the form of a question. I'm sorry, but you're disqualified.

For you folks playing along at home please note that not until the creator of Compact Pro, **Bill Goodman**, recently made his **ExtractorPC v.1.0** available on the DOS side, has there been a universal method for cross platform compression/decompression for the two most widely used archive products for the Mac since the backward compatible kludge to shareware from circa 1986. Although not as popular, other alternatives exist. **MacCompress** and **LHARC** also offer AC-DC compression and decompression with versions for both Mac and PC, and both are shareware.

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Recently, both Compact Pro and StuffIt have introduced new products and new versions of existing products that address both the compression and cross-platform issue that has befuddled "most of us" Macintosh and PC telecomputors.

ALEX, I'LL TAKE COMPACT PRO FOR $500

Bill Goodman is a busy man. At the time of this writing he had just released his **ExtractorPC v.1.0** (ExPC) and had debuted the newest version (1.33) of his shareware compression product, Compact Pro (CPT 1.33). ExPC is a program that lets PC users decompress files archived by a Macintosh using any version of Compact Pro. ExPC can be found in Library 8 of the Macintosh Communications forum of the big board (**GO MACCOM**). Like most of the decompression utilities, ExPC is freeware. You pay for the compression side.

Take for instance, Goodman's CPT 1.33: $25; shareware; at a BBS near you. According to Goodman, CPT 1.33 has "functionally identical **BinHex** functions," but is faster than previous CPT versions and StuffIt Deluxe; 5-6 times faster. One of the reasons for such marked improvement is that while Goodman worked within the structure of the basic algorithm he wrote long ago, he was able to tweak version 1.33 so that "it doesn't give as much attention to background activity," especially INITs. "INITs steal time," Goodman claims.

In early July, I asked Bill to comment on Aladdin System's famed "coming-soon" release of **StuffIt Deluxe 3.0** (SIT 3.0); "What should people look for," I asked? He pointed to three key areas, "when," "size-speed," and "the convenience factor." The when factor, of course refers to the fact that Aladdin "announced" version 3.0 way back, over a year ago, during the **System 7** rollout. The size-speed thing we can understand. No one wants to fiddle while Rome burns or wait eternally for a 2-MB MS-Word file to dance on the head of a pin.

But the convenience factor! Ah!, that's where high blood pressure lives, especially for sysops. Imagine, if you would, a world in which all of the compression vendors -- you know who they are, those guys with the funny initials like **.ARC**, **.CPT**, **.LHZ**, **.SIT**, and **.ZIP** -- could sit (ha-ha) around one table. Now, here's the tough part, imagine these same vendors agreeing on the structure of one cross-platform-portable shell program that could contain a decompression module for each compression scheme on the market. That way sysops could offer subscribers, in **ONE** quick download, **ONE** folder that would contain **ONE** program that could de-archive **ANY** file regardless of origin.

I can hear **John Belushi**, and a few irate users, screaming in the background.

Goodman claims he once championed such a quixotic quest. Hell, he says even wrote a 13-Kb **.SIT** file (!) to prove it could be done. However, back in the 5-D world (girth, time and $$$), the convenience factor follows the time clock of a different chipset. Goodman is quick to point out that throughout the many versions of Compact Pro he has used basically the same algorithm. That means, in most cases, seamless backward compatibility with earlier versions. In contrast, how "convenient" can it be for sysops and users, asks Goodman, for Aladdin to create yet another new algorithm for this major update to 3.0? Does this not "abandon" users, force them to upgrade and hassle with another in a long series of incompatible versions? Where is the convenience in changing Classic files to Deluxe files to Lite files to 3.0 files anon until the sky falls? The ultimate convenience test for SIT 3.0, one could suppose, will be to actually test how long it takes a sysop to convert 600 Mb of files (compressed with an older version of SIT) to 3.0.

As for the execution of CPT 1.33, here are some results. I performed a simple test that compacted and expanded 5.8 Mb (Claris applications like Resolve, FileMaker Pro, etc.) using Goodman's new version. It took 07:38:89 minutes to compact those files into a self-expanding archive (SEA) of 2.738 Mb, a 54% reduction in size. The SEA took 04:38:83 minutes to fully expand.

STUFFIT DELUXE 3.0 SHIPPED ON THIS DATE!

"What is July 30th, Alex?"
"That's correct, Dave, you've cleared the category."

Two disks? Sheesh, you need a compression program just to have this thing on your hard disk. But it is DELUXE. In fact, the package is "a revolutionary step, not an evolutionary step," according to David Schargel, president of Aladdin Systems. He's right, too. We're not just talking new algorithms, here, we're talking a whole new ballgame that redefines an important segment of file management. Not only does StuffIt Deluxe 3.0 (SIT) deliver a remarkably improved compression engine, it adds an impressive array of tools, utilities, translators and system extensions that provide power and flexibility. Additionally, SIT comes with SpaceSaver (SS), Aladdin's entry into the file-compression market. Like Salient's Disk Doubler and AutoDoubler, SS provides user-definable, on-demand or automatic file compression. In contrast to Salient's products, however, once compressed with SS, files can be used normally, in fact, the icon doesn't even change. Standalone retail for SS is pegged at **$59**.

The complete SIT package (StuffIt Deluxe 3.0 and SpaceSaver) retails at **$120** and requires **System 6.0.5** or later, is '040 cache compatible, 32-bit clean, virtual memory compatible, and works with non-roman language fonts. The 194-page manual is fairly complete in description of basic and in-depth operation. Yet, it lacks an index; an odd oversight. System 7 savvy, SIT supports context-sensitive Balloon Help, dragging items to a Stuff icon for auto compression, and a complete set of Apple Events, "to the extent that every feature of the application can be remote controlled with scripting systems such as UserLand Software's Frontier and Simple Software's Control Tower." Additionally, SIT comes with its own built-in scripting language which supports other popular languages including QuicKeys 2, HyperCard and Macintosh Programmer's Workshop (MPW).

The network and communications extensions include translators for common archive and data formats from MS-

DOS, **Windows**, **UNIX**, Mac, and other environments. SIT can convert files created in ZIP, ARC, Compact Pro, uuencode, atob/btob, tar, BinHex, AppleLink, DiskDoubler, MacBinary, and more. Included is support for leading telecommunications and electronic mail products including **MicroPhone II**, **White Knight**, **Quickmail**, and **Microsoft Mail**. An **XTND** translator is provided for use with **On Location**.

A feature that will prove helpful to Mac-based sysops who decide to standardize on SIT is a StuffIt Converter application which allows users to convert any older StuffIt, Compact Pro, or AppleLink archives to the improved compression format offered by SIT. Here endeth the convenience factor.

Another noteworthy feature is the ability to view the contents of Stuffed text and PICT files. The user can even select a portion or an entire document and copy it to the Clipboard for pasting into another application or for printout. This feature also allows for a "Read Me" or other "required" text or PICT file, for example an order or routing form, to automatically appear when opening an archive. Finally, its Menu extension lets you Stuff and UnStuff straight from the Macintosh Finder by adding another pull-doun menu with commands.

Aladdin also offers a shareware version of SIT in StuffIt Lite 3.0. $25 gets you just the Macintosh compression/decompression modules without the menu or SS extensions. Lite will not UnZip or deARC.

By the time you read this, Aladdin plans to have released UnStuffPC, a freeware utility that will work in the PC environment to allow DOS computers to UnStuff any StuffIt file but not Compact Pro archives.

David Schargel, who was anxious to find out how SIT stacked up against the unreleased version 2.0 of ZIP, claims that the new SIT algorithm is optimized for decompression and is a foundation Aladdin and its users can work with for years to come. And on the topic of providing translators for a wide variety of file formats, he says "we want our users to be able to use any file."

Sure, there was a time when some of the Mac people got together (at the insistence of some CompuServe sysops) to sit down and explore the possibility for one decompression product for the various file formats, "but no one could agree on who would control the code," recalls Schargel. StuffIt Expander was Aladdin's eventual solution to that dilemma. As for the SpaceSaver and its fast, transparent compression that doesn't even change the icon of a compressed file, Schargel calls it "the DD killer."

But is StuffIt Deluxe 3.0 fast?

Yes. Almost as fast as Compact Pro 1.33 on the compression side and almost twice as fast on decompression. We made a self-extracting archive of the same **5.8 Mb** group of files we compacted earlier and **SIT** stuffed it in **08:48:06**, just over a minute slower than CPT. However, the file was smaller by two percentage points. On decompression, SIT took but **02:23:57** to UnStuff the archive, where CPT took **04:38:83**. But when we used the translator within SIT to decompress the CPT archive it took **06:30:94**, a slight performance premium for the translation, but near universal support nonetheless. CYCLOS Software, P.O. Box 31417, San Francisco, CA 94131. Aladdin Software, 165 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076; **(408)761-6200** voice; **(408)761-6206** fax.

TELEFINDER PRO 2.0 DEBUTS

Designed to address the needs of power users who call several BBSs regularly, **Spider Island Software** has released **TeleFinder Pro 2.0** (PRO). Whether you call your office from your PowerBook, TeleFinder BBSs, or commercial on-line services like CompuServe, this new version of PRO provides most of the tools you'll need to take full advantage of high-speed modems.

As makers of TeleFinder **Group Edition** BBS host software, Spider Island first released TeleFinder Pro last year. This is no stripped down TeleFinder BBS "user version." PRO is a general purpose communications program originally introduced to 3.5-mouse reviews in most of the Mac publications. While considered a good value, the conventional wisdom concluded it needed some work. First off, then, this new version includes some serious upgrades: **VT100** emulation, and full-color **PC-ANSI** operation that supports full-screen scrollbacks. And though the admitted "light-weight" scripting will never stand up to **MicroPhone II**, PRO's 30-command macro language is sufficient to automate most logon sequences.

Compatible with all TeleFinder BBSs, PRO is also **Communications Toolbox** compatible and **System 7** savvy. PRO includes a built-in dialing directory for auto access to up to 250 services. The introductory release, in addition to the access numbers for the usual commercial suspects, includes the contact numbers for most of the BBSs around the world that support TeleFinder host software.

PRO offers full support for high-speed modems in 32-bit **ZMODEM** and **XMODEM** file transfers. The ZMODEM implementation includes auto receive and file recovery. Over 80 modem drivers are provided that cover the gamut from plain-vanilla, Hayes-compatible 2,400-bps operation to initialization strings for many of the new hardware-handshaking V.32bis modems available now.

Additional support for high-speed modems includes (finally) the ability to download message threads and mail from TeleFinder BBSs with the ability to read and post replies offline. While this feature works only with BBSs running TeleFinder host software, it is limited, yet welcome functionality.

Other features include a configurable **BBS Find File** that lets you perform file searches on a variety of BBSs. Finally, PRO includes a **Remote Access** mode that lets other PRO users connect to your Mac for controlled access to files on your hard disk. Under **$50** we're told; direct from Spider Island.

In other news from Spider Island, check out release 2.7 of Group Edition to support color ANSI, multiple lines within one folder, and more Apple Events aware operation. **Rusty Tucker** also

claims that, come December, sysops will be able to site license a **Windows** version of the user program to work with TeleFinder host software. Pricing is to be determined. Spider Island Software, 4790 Irvine Boulevard, # 105-347, Irvine, CA 92720; **(714)669-9260** voice; **(714)669-1383** fax; **(714)730-5785** BBS.

MAC BBS OF THE MONTH

We were truly puzzled by the poor performance of Macintosh-based BBS systems in this magazine's recent beauty contest/ballot-box-stuffing extravaganza. Only two Mac-based BBS made it into the glorious ranks of the top 100 hundred vote getters. Well, if EXEC-PC's 230 line custom system could do no better than 77th place, than who am I to grouse, eh?

Honor where honor is due, I always say. So our pick for the Macintosh BBS of the month is **Magic**, which managed to place 96th out of 100. A mighty achievement when the demographics of this publication (or computing in general) stare you full-bore in the face. Magic, based in Markham, Ontario, is the BBS arm for the **Macintosh Awareness Group in Canada**, a registered Apple User Group with 3,000+ members.

Let's take a look, shall we? Here are the basics: full Mac support on 10 lines running **FirstClass** software, version 2.0. Free. The large file directory, CD-ROM and active conferences are coupled with an operational Internet gateway sans **Tabby**.

But technology only gets you so far, claims Mark Windrim, the Magic sysop, loath to describe Magic in terms of quantifiable machinery. "There are lots of PC systems with more lines, more users, and lots of files," he says, "but that doesn't make them any better than we are. I can think of one such system which claims to be the best, while I (and many other users) find their system just an absolute mess. There is no concept behind it; it's just a downloading haven with hundreds of message bases. Unfortunately, it doesn't work for many users.

"I think we've realized that the personality and content are just as important as the look of the system," continues Windrim. "We are providing online conferencing features for all the users. We have specific conferences for disabled people, people that belong to AA & Narcotics Anonymous, as well as our famed "Sex, Lies & QuickTime" conference, a free-flowing conference where virtually anything can be discussed."

I got an added kick in taking advantage of one of the new features found in FirstClass 2.0; I was able to poke around the system and open windows during a **ZMODEM** download, even send mail. A quick glance at the New Uploads area showed many new contributions and quite a few uploaders, a good sign. I had difficulty getting a free line during the weekend, so set your modem to autodial and get ready for a well worth-it wait. "Times are changing," Windrim concludes, "and people are looking for classy places, a FirstClass act." Magic **(416)288-1767** BBS.

If you have a Macintosh-based BBS running a graphical user interface (why make a Mac look like a PC running a TTY or ANSI screen, ugh) let us know who you are and what you think you're doing that makes your board special. Jack can't afford to reimburse all of my TELCO charges so, to make things easy for everyone, mail a diskette containing your user program with a preset account, time allotment (1-hr for editorial deadbeats like me should be enuf) and password to the address below so me and/or my band of elves posing as BBS spies can log on and take a look around your system. Also include a text-file that describes your board and any interesting places you think are special. I'll try to visit as many places as possible and write about the most interesting boards I can find. MAC BBS, 2069 Highland Drive, Concord, CA 94520.

[Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, California, is a publicist working with Comstock Communications. He operates **WORLDVIEW BBS (510)676-2919** running on a Macintosh computer. As the former editor of **SHOWPAGE** and associate publisher of **Western MicroMarket**, Bill has been writing about Macintosh computers since 1984.]

ONE BBSCON

The first **Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention** (ONE BBSCON) was held August 13-16th in Denver Colorado. Over a thousand BBS enthusiasts attended the event and by all accounts it was the most intense, and fascinating gathering of BBS and online service aficionados ever convened.

There were a total of **943** paid registrants to the event, with over a hundred additional exhibit only visitors. There were some surprises statistically among the attendees. The event had a decidedly international flavor drawing **65** international visitors from **14** countries including The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, The United Kingdom, New Zealand, Japan, Germany, Mexico, Belgium, Canada, and Slovenija (previously part of Yugoslavia). A total of **29** press passes were issued to journalists from ***PC Week***, ***Infoworld***, ***U.S. News and World Report***, ***PC Computing***, ***PC Magazine***, ***The Chicago Tribune***, and dozens of other publications.

Surprisingly, nearly **30%** of the total attendance indicated on the registration form that they did not themselves run a bulletin board system. Since this was the first event ever where most of the major BBS software vendors were actually all in the same place at the same time demonstrating their products, many used the convention as a means to view and compare the various products available and learn more about the technology. Of those who did operate a system, over **46** different software titles were represented - from the Unix conferencing system Participate to shareware systems such as Remote Access, Sapphire, and WWIV. The average line count for BBS operators was **12.6** lines. This count was pulled up a bit by the attendance of such notables as Neil Fleming of Canada Remote Systems with 201 lines, Rusty Hardinburg of Rusty & Edie's BBS at 125 lines, and Jim Maxey of Event Horizons with 64 lines. Even so, it would appear that multi-line systems were the norm for this crowd.

The event started with a reception on Wednesday evening. Thursday morning Jack Rickard introduced the One, Inc. Executive Advisory Board Members who each briefly welcomed the gathering. Phil Becker presented a stunning multimedia presentation about bulletin boards and where they were today - making very effective use of two 9 X 12 foot rear projection screens to show actual bulletin boards in operation in government, business, and in the public dialup market. He then introduced John C. Dvorak as keynote speaker for the event.

Dvorak, was as usual, compelling. He addressed a couple of problems facing the BBS world, most notably the disturbing incidence of individuals manipulating the online populace with half truths and in some cases completely fabricated situations that appeared quite credible when related online. He praised OS/2, slammed Ross Perot, and was generally entertaining. He also talked a bit about the contortions the online world goes through in dealing with copyright laws designed for a different age and a different set of technologies and called for liberalization of copyright law regarding text and images presented online. Finally, he warned of growing government regulation and legislation regarding online issues, and called for some form of lobbying organization to represent BBS operators and online callers.

Later in the day, Dvorak, co-author Nick Anis Jr., and Zoom Telephonics, Inc., joined forces in a special awards presentation to honor people they felt provided pioneering contributions to the field of PC telecommunications. ZOOM printed a program and provided some fairly striking engraved lucite award trophies. At the close of sessions on Thursday afternoon, Dvorak presented these Technical Excellence in Communications awards to twelve pioneers whose vision and commitment to telecommunications and BBS conferencing has helped create the vibrant, growing marketplace of ideas and information that exists today.

The Dvorak/Zoom Award Recipients:

Ward Christensen - for development of the **XMODEM** file transfer protocol, the first protocol widely used with personal computers.

Ward Christensen and Randy Seuss - honored for developing the first electronic bulletin board system, first operational in Chicago in February, 1978

Tom Jennings - honored as founder of the International Fido Network - currently with over 16,000 member bulletin boards world wide.

Chuck Forsberg - for development of the **ZMODEM** file transfer protocol.

Phil Katz, PKWARE, Inc. for development of the **PKZIP** file compression/archive software.

Tom Smith, Datastorm Technologies, Inc. - **Procomm for Windows** terminal software.

John Friel III, Mustang Software, Inc. - **Qmodem** terminal software package.

The Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link (The WELL) was awarded a technical excellence award for Best Online Conferencing System

Channel 1 BBS - for best general interest BBS.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation - for service to the online community.

Marshall Dudley - for development of the **DOORWAY** program used by many bulletin boards to run third party software programs with their bulletin board.

Rockwell Design Team - for development of the first single package v.32/v.32 bis modem chipset, currently used in hundreds of different modem designs.

BOARDWATCH 100 READER'S CHOICE AWARDS

Boardwatch Magazine held a BBS popularity contest from January 1, 1992, to July 1, 1992. In this contest, callers voted for their favorite bulletin board system by mailing or faxing in a ballots. Winning bulletin boards were to receive awards at the ONE BBSCON, and a random drawing was held from the ballots received for high speed modems from U.S. Robotics, Hayes, ZyXEL USA, and Supra.

Boardwatch distributed a printed listing of the 100 systems receiving the most votes in the **Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice BBS contest.** We also presented each of the top 10 systems with a framed copy of the magazine and a crystal pyramid trophy. The sysops of all ten of the top systems were present with the exception of Michael Allen of Odyssey BBS in Monrovia, California.

The top 10 bulletin boards included:

1. CANADA REMOTE SYSTEMS. 462 ballots. (416)629-7000 Canada. Located in Mississauga Ontario, a suburb of Toronto, CRS was started in the early '80s by Jud Newell, the system went into bankruptcy two years ago and was purchased by Neil Fleming - one of the users. Since that time, Fleming has doubled the line count to **201** incoming lines - making it indisputably the largest PCBoard installation in the world. CRS has over **30 gigabytes** of file storage, and over **3500** different mail conferences including Usenet News Groups and their own North AmeriNet network. According to Fleming, they currently have over **9000** paid subscribers to the system. The service also offers a rich selection of news services such as UPI news, North American stock quotes, and more. Canada Remote Systems, 1331 Crestlawn Drive, Unit D, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4W 2P9; **(416)620-1439** voice.

2. PLEASURE DOME - 416 ballots. (804)490-5878. Tom McKelvey, aka Tom Terrific, has operated Pleasure Dome in Tidewater Virginia since 1985. This six line Wildcat! system is a very popular adult system and very unusual in a number of ways. Pleasure Dome, PO Box 12126, Norfolk, VA 23502.

3. ODYSSEY. 360 ballots. (818)358-6968. Michael Allen's Computer Productions, Inc. operates the largest adult chat system on the west coast - probably in the country. Odyssey sports 128 ports - most of them on the CompuServe X.25 packet network - and uses a highly customized version of Galacticomm's MAJOR BBS software. Odyssey, 1307 S. Shamrock Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016; **(800)947-0936** voice.

4. PC-OHIO. 320 ballots. (216)381-3320. Norm Henke has operated a BBS in Ohio since the days when they were coal powered. He was adamantly a hobbyist and insisted BBSs should be free.

PC-Ohio is one of the most popular systems in the country with **30** lines, **9.6** gigabytes of file storage, and all lines serviced by U.S. Robotics Dual Standard modems. Henke is a charter member of the Cleveland/Akron Sysops Association. The system also sports a very loyal, and voting group of supporters. PC-Ohio, PO Box 21411, Cleveland, OH 44121.

5. ALBUQUERQUE ROS. 260 ballots. (505)299-5974. Steve Fox appears to like to do things the hard way. He has operated Albuquerque ROS since October of 1984. Further, since he didn't care for most of the BBS software he saw, he wrote his own. The entire Remote Operating System (ROS) software used on Albuqurque ROS is his creation. Albuquerque ROS, PO Box 13150, Albuquerque, NM 87192.

6. MICRO MESSAGE SERVICE. 217 ballots. (919)779-6674. Mike Stroud has operated the oldest continually operating BBS in the Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill area of North Carolina. He went online in October of 1982 using STUBS BBS software with a whopping 1.5 MB of floppy disk storage and wowed the area a year later by installing a very expensive 5 MB hard disk drive.

Today, Micro Message Service sports **5 GB** of file storage and **10** lines in an area of the country notable for being tough to BBS in. As the big gun in North Carolina, Micro Message service supports a variety of computer types including Amiga, Tandy, Commodore, and other oddities in addition to a very well stocked PC/DOS area. Micro Message Service, 1464 Garner Station Blvd., Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27603

7. SAN DIEGO CONNECTION. 207 ballots. (619)584-8456. San Diego's largest BBS is a DLX chat system running **32** lines. Operated by Rich Famiglietti, Marcus Ogilvie, and Bob O'Berg, the system is an adult chat service. San Diego Connection, 9943 Felicia Lane, Spring Valley, CA 91977; **(619)670-1116** voice.

8. GAY/LESBIAN INFORMATION BUREAU (GLIB). 164 ballots. (703)578-4542. Jon Larimore, Arlington, Virginia. The Gay Community has made good use of the BBS technology and it provides some unique advantages to them. The Gay/Lesbian Information Bureau (GLIB) fills its mission superbly with tons of information, news, and tidbits presented in a very genteel and comfortable manner. Using TBBS software, GLIB offers multi-line chat, dozens of topical conferences, and a lot of online information by the way of newsletters, newspapers, etc.

9. STANFORD PALO ALTO COMPUTER EXCHANGE. 149 ballots. (415)323-4193. First established in 1986, the Stanford Palo Alto Computer Exchange (SPACE BBS) has grown to

10 lines under the ownership of Owen Hawkins. This PCBoard system sports **4.2 GB** of file storage, plus several CD-ROMS. SPACE a clear winner. Owen Hawkins, PO Box 260, Menlo Park, CA 94026; **(415)323-4193** voice.

10. AFTER HOURS. 147 ballots. (512)448-3562. Located in the heart of Texas at Austin, Conrad Ruchelman's After Hours BBS is a 16-line chat service using Major BBS software.

Part of the Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice BBS contest was a random drawing from all ballots received for modem prizes. All voters were printed out on equally sized slips of paper and the drawing was made from the box.

U.S. Robotics had contributed two **USR Courier 16.8K Dual Standard Modems** to the contest. These modems feature the new HST 16.8K mode as well as 14.4kbps V.32bis. Adam Strack, of U.S. Robotics came to the podium and drew two names from the box to receive the U.S. Robotics modems.

Richard Thornton of Cupertino, California received the first modem. Mr. Thornton had submitted a ballot on behalf of the **Higher Power BBS (408)737-7040. George Howard** of Los Angeles, California was awarded the second U.S. Robotics modem. He had submitted a ballot for the **Westside BBS (213)933-4050.**

ZyXEL had supported the contest with two U-1496E models. These are 14.4kbps V.32bis models with fax capability. Munira Brooks, of ZyXEL, drew two names from the box for ZyXEL modems. The first went to **Mary Lou White** of Fremont, California as the result of her ballot for **The Wishing Well BBS (510)745-7901. Jon Eberhart** of Albuquerque New Mexico received the second ZyXEL modem by virtue of his ballot for **Albuquerque ROS (505)299-5974.**

Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc. had donated an OPTIMA 14.4 with fax capability to the Boardwatch 100 contest. Randy Cooper of Hayes drew the name of **Alan Rupa** of Billerica Massachusetts from the box and awarded Mr. Rupa an OPTIMA model featuring 14.4kbps V.32bis modulation and fax. Mr. Rupa had voted for the **Executive Connection BBS (617)621-6090** and appears to have had quite a run of good luck - and won more than a modem. He began frequenting the system a few months back and met the sysops at a social gathering held by them. He also met their daughter, Debbie Silverman, at the event and they became engaged shortly thereafter. His new alias on the system is SysSonInLaw.

Finally **Supra Corporation** had donated two Supra 14.4+Fax models to support the Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice BBS contest. Mark White, of Supra Corporation, drew two names from the box. **Terry Cannon** of Van Alstyne, Texas received the first as the result of his vote for **Xavious BBS (508)875-3618.** The second Supra modem went to **Iva Dawn Stocks** of Madera, California for her ballot for **Zen Den Systems (209)675-8436.**

EMERGING THEMES

Online Graphics was the most powerful theme emerging from ONE BBSCON. This is a thing that wants to be - without a clear cut way to get there. But numerous developers and BBS operators seemed intent on the topic. Dave Hughes was stumping for NAPLPS and Peter Jordan of Microstar, the worlds largest developer of NAPLPS tools came down from Canada.

Also getting attention in graphics:

COCONET - Brian Dear's Unix-based COCONET BBS system features above all else - a stunning graphics interface. Both COCONUT COMPUTING, developers of COCONET, and Bruce Woodward of the CYBERSTORE online service in Vancouver British Columbia were displaying some very attractive screens. COCONET announced support for Mark William's inexpensive COHERENT Unix clone.

RIP. ResNova Software, developers of the multiline NOVALINK BBS for Macintosh, were oddly showing a graphics protocol that swings both ways on Macintosh and IBM platform. The RIP protocol apparently can easily be fitted for almost any BBS, and though it appeared a bit shy of complete, it was definitely drawing a crowd of interested BBS operators and developers. It was graphically stunning.

POWERVISION - a new Multi-Level Marketing based national online service somewhat akin to Prodigy in function showed some dynamite graphics, including bit image photographs incorporated in the screens.

LEGAL ISSUES - decidedly hot. PC Info sold all 288 copies of the SYSLAW book by Lance Rose by early in the second day of the vendor exhibit. There were enough attendees trying to crowd into rooms hosting the Legal Issues track, chaired by Lance Rose, that even the fire marshal appeared interested. Sessions on copyright law, patent law, and the legal aspects of online legal agreements were very well attended.

INTERNET. Interest in the Internet was very noticeable, and a full track was available to cover it. The crowd was mixed between people very familiar with it and those who had only heard of it. Some complained that these sessions quickly got too technical and broke into question and answer before a proper foundation was laid. But attendance was packed.

HOW TO MAKE MONEY WITH A BBS. This track was kicked off by Jack Rickard and Phil Becker on Thursday afternoon with two back-to-back sessions similar to what they delivered at FidoCon91. And the large double ballroom this was held in was packed to the rafters. However commercial this theme is, it certainly strikes a chord with the sysop rank and file. The two covered the basics of making an online service a business. Unlike last year, the end of the two sessions wasn't the end of the track. For most of the points they brought up, including credit card merchant accounts, business plans, approaching the press, etc., there were specific sessions held during the following two days to go into further detail. Tim Pfieffer, of Teleflora Credit Systems, for example, did a full session on how to get a merchant account. Simon Clement presented information on developing a business plan. There were actually two sessions on dealing with the press. Sheri Robert, publicist for Galacticomm, explained how to do it from a PR persons point of view. Then David Coursey of Infoworld assembled a panel of press people who where covering the event to discuss what they looked for in a story. When Ed Baig of U.S. News and World

Owen Hawkins of SPACE BBS
receives Boardwatch 100 Award

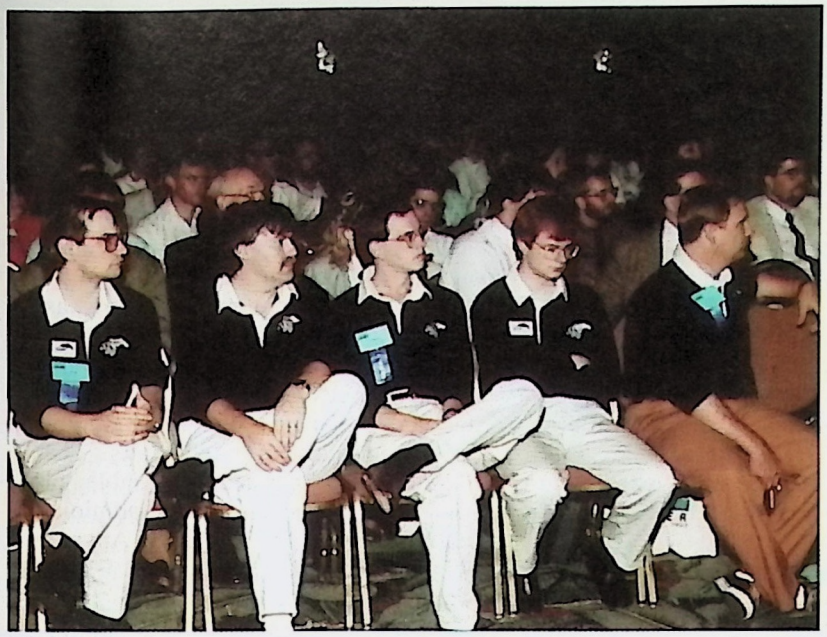
Phil Becker Addresses Opening Session

ONE BBSCON Executive Advisory Board

Dennis Hayes on Modems

(L-R) Ben Cunningham, Alan Bryant, George Peace
in Developers Roundtable Session

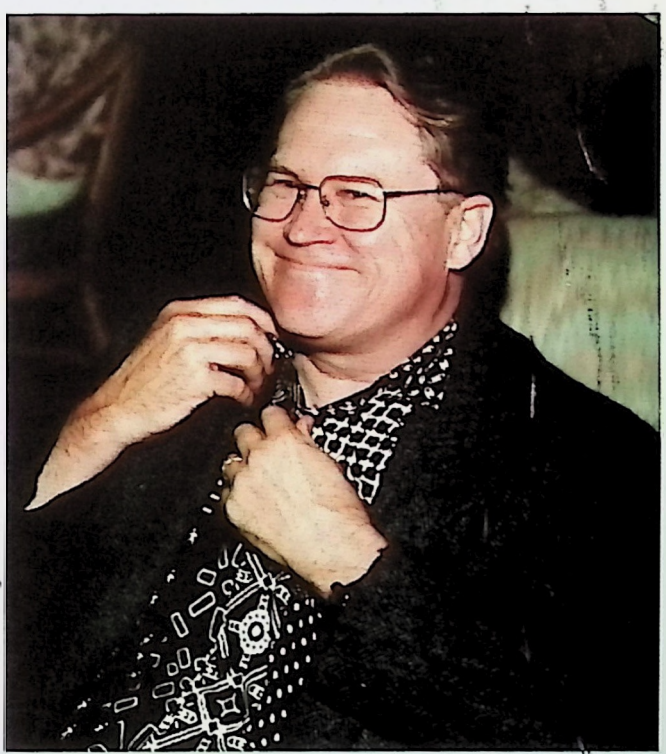
Ward Christensen (left) and Chuck Forsberg



Wildcat! Row. - Left to Right
Scott Brynen, John Friel, Scott Hunter, Greg Hewgill, and Rick Heming.

ONE BBSCON Organizers
Jack Rickard (left) and Philip Becker.
You want to do WHAT again?

Jim Harrer of Mustang Software in the Wildcat! Booth



Keynote Speaker John C. Dvorak
Happy about something anyway.

Pete White and Tony Davis (center) with Friends - Ain't this fun...

Report rose to pose a question to the panel, Coursey would have none of it. He instructed Baig to "get up here on the stage with the rest of us and ANSWER questions this session Ed." The audience loved it.

The most popular element of the How to Profit track was two roundtable sessions where operators of profitable bulletin boards discussed how they had done it - confirming or denying Becker and Rickard's general claims as to what was important. **Kevin Behrens**, operator of a 25-line Aquila BBS in Chicago, did an excellent job hosting the **Subscription BBS Success Roundtable**. **Neil Fleming**, of the 201 line Canada Remote Systems BBS, **Rusty Hardinburg** of the 125 line Rusty & Edie's BBS, and **Norm Henke**, of the 33-line PC-Ohio BBS rounded out the discussion group. All were full time professional BBS operators who had left other careers to run a BBS as a business. All of the participating system operators in this panel appeared to really enjoy the discussion, generally a series of questions posed by Behrens, and really let their hair down on their successes and failures in a way not normally expected among competitors. They covered everything from how to decide what to charge, when to add lines, how they attracted callers, right down to practical matters such as insurance, data backup strategies, and some of the growth hurdles they had encountered along the way. There were surprising differences among the different operator's approaches, as well as a lot in common. Rusty Hardinburg should clearly have his own television comedy show as he had both the audience and the rest of the panel roaring most of the time.

A similar roundtable discussion was hosted by Scott Brinker, of Galacticomm, Inc., and operator of the Isle's of Shae BBS in Fort Lauderdale. Joining brinker were Dean Kerl, of the Garbage Dump BBS in Albuquerque, Bruce Lomasky of Bruce's Bar and Grill in Connecticutt, and Tony Javoric of Public Data Network. They discussed the slightly different world of online chat and game services. This type of system usually features hourly, monthly, or credit charges, has very different line loading characteristics, and focuses more on building a social club type atmosphere than the general subscription-based BBSs do. Again, these operators were strikingly candid in discussing the various elements of success and set back they had encountered.

In all, over 100 educational sessions were presented. Since up to seven sessions were going on simultaneously throughout the convention, conflicts were inevitable. Fortunately, all sessions were audio taped and the tapes were available within an hour of the close of each session. In some cases, demand for the tapes caused some lags, but in general the audio tape offering worked well. Full sets of ONE BBSCON tapes are still available from One, Inc. at $495 for the set.

BBS STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Frank LaRosa, of Searchlight Software, noted in discussions several months prior to the ONE BBSCON, that it would likely be the largest assembly of BBS and terminal software developers ever gathered in one place at one time. He suggested a private meeting of software developers to at least broach the subject of developing some form of standards for online communication, to try to crack the chicken and egg paradox that seemed to come up with every advance in online technology. As many who dealt with ONE BBSCON found out, such casual suggestions had a way of turning into microphones rather quickly. ONE, Inc. sponsored a private room with refreshments on Friday evening at 8:00 PM and Mr. LaRosa found himself facing some 31 developers, including most of the BBS software developers as well as representatives from DataStorm Technologies (PROCOMM terminal software), MSI (Qmodem terminal program), and Exis (Telix terminal program).

A number of items were discussed vaguely, including the need for an online graphics protocol, possible advantages of adopting a common messaging format after the fashion of the Internet's Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP) and others. No one really pressed adopting any standards at the meeting. Rather it was largely agreed that an informal Bulletin Board Standards Committee be formed to examine technologies

The attendees agreed to form a standards organization, the BBSC (Bulletin Board Standards Committee), to examine existing standards, and evaluate their capabilities in the BBS and communications forum. Plans are to determine which standards meet the requirements of the rapidly evolving community, and implement and extend them, as well as develop new standards as needed. The goals are to define a set of protocols and standards to allow communications software and BBSs to interoperate graphically and share common communications formats. The group selected Christopher Ambler of UUPlus Development as the administrative contact for the BBS. Anyone wishing to participate in the BBSC should contact:

Christopher Ambler
UUPlus Development
1344 Madonna Road, Suite 242
San Luis Obispo, Ca, 93405
Voice: **805-542-0336**
Fax: **805-543-8227**
E-mail: **cambler@nike.calpoly.edu**

VENDOR EXHIBITS

The show did feature a vendor exhibit area for two days in the hotel. Some 37 bendors filled up 51 booth apaces. Over a quarter of a million dollars in sales on the vendor floor livened up the vendor smiles at ONE BBSCON. Vendor space for this portion of the convention was sold out by June 11, 1992 - over two months prior to the event.

Tony Davis, armed with a collection of shareware titles on a series of CD-ROMS, appears to be one of the big winners at this year's exhibit area. He claims to have made some $23,000 in sales of CD-ROMS during the two exhibit days and was enthusiastic enough about the event to send a bottle of Dom Perignon to Phil Becker's table at the restaurant on Saturday night. According to Davis, once he had listed each of his CD's on his price list, it seemed a natural enough thing to draw a line under the list and offer a discount for the whole collection at $695. "I didn't think anyone would actually want to BUY all of them though," avowed Davis. "We sold twenty of em."

Supra was offering a very attractive discount on their 14,400 bps modem with fax at $199 and claimed on Saturday afternoon that they had sold over 200 modems. It apparently didn't take any to much of the wind out of the other modem manufacturer's sales, however, as Hayes, Lightning, U.S. Robotics, and ZyXEL all seemed uncharacteristically charmed by something, though they weren't quite as free with the sales figures. U.S. Robotics, whose sysop discount program has been under increasing fire in recent months over shipping delays, lack of support, and draconian BBS verification procedures some BBS operators are privately referring to as an "electronic rectal exam", waived all verification at the show. According to Adam Strack, anyone attending automatically qualified as a BBS operator eligible for the discount.

eSoft, Inc., developer of the TBBS software package, sold TBBS at full price, but anyone purchasing at the show received a copy of TDBS, their database option module, and SYSOM, the remote maintenance module, free. Since TDBS actually lists for slightly more than TBBS, this made it a half price sale. The result was over $30,000 in sales during the two days, catching the eSoft crew by surprise. The company had invested in a brand new display booth. According to Becker, "If you had told me we going into this show that we could pay for this booth design with two days sales at a show, I would have never believed it in a million years. It looks like a feeding frenzy here on the floor."

NEXT YEAR

The part difficult to quantify about ONE BBSCON was the intensity of networking that went on at this conference. Most everyone running a BBS or wanting to has what appears to be a piece of a puzzle, and they need another piece. For the first time ever, a critical mass of over a thousand of them found themselves together in a nice place. The result was explosive, and hard to describe. Throughout the conference, probably 20% of the attendees were in the hall talking to each other in a fast and furious effort to match puzzle pieces. And from the feedback we received, most of them were finding the missing parts they needed among the other attendees. No amount of session planning, food, or exhibit area arrangement can cause this to happen. At some conferences, most of the attendees are a little awkwardly self conscious the first day or so, and often you see attendees gliding quietly from session to session. Not at ONE BBSCON. The reception kicking it off Wednesday evening was already roaring with people pumping hands, and jawing as fast and furious as they could work their faces. It didn't let up until late Sunday morning. The mix of people from chat services, Unix systems, shareware libraries, corporations, educators, Macintosh operators, and others was magic. By late Saturday, the main topic of conversation was "what about next year?"

THE CRYSTAL BALL

The show organizers are disinclined to simply repeat ONE BBSCON in 1993. We want to top it. And that maps out a pretty rough course. Currently, plans are for a ONE BBSCON to be held again in August of 1993. The Stouffer Concourse Hotel was ideal for this first ONE BBSCON, and probably inadequate for a second one. The ONE, Inc. staff is currently in the process of site selection and the selection of a site will affect all plans markedly. But we can talk a little about the current thinking.

Peering into the crystal ball, show organizers are leaning towards a target attendance of 2000 BBS and online networking enthusiasts at ONE BBSCON '93.

The vendor exhibits were enormously popular, and because of space limitations nearly 20 vendors were turned away from this first ONE BBSCON - all space was gone by June 11th this year. To address this, the exhibit area will likely be expanded to some 20,000 square feet holding 150 10X10 ft display booths. The vendor area will be open three days instead of two. Actual product sales in booths, which was much more active than expected, will be actively encouraged and vendors encouraged to plan special show discounts to play to this apparently strong hand.

In the sessions area, ONE BBSCON attempted to present over 100 educations sessions in three days - something virtually no other conference even attempts. The frightening aspect of this is that with as many as seven sessions going on simultaneously, it appears to have worked. Some speakers were superb, others rather unprepared. The current thinking is to require white paper submissions prior to next ONE BBSCON, publish these papers in a printed proceedings available to all attendees, and try to encourage more prepared presentations. The call for papers opens October 1, 1992 and will remain open until the session plan is full, or June 1, 1993, whichever occurs first. Those interested in making presentations should submit written papers to One, Inc. 4255 South Buckley Road, Suite 308, Aurora, CO 80013; **(303)693-5253** voice; **(303)693-5518** fax; **(303)693-5432** BBS.

INTERNET

THE WHOLE INTERNET USER'S GUIDE AND CATALOG

We've reviewed several books from publisher O'Reilly & Associates, Inc. in the past. This specialty publisher runs some titles that are almost TOO specialized for anything we might need, including books on various obscure tools and languages such as PHIGS, RPC, LEX, YACC, Pick BASIC, and so forth that we just don't have much interest in. But we've found that whatever they publish, it is always a quality book done well and for these specialized audiences, such books are likely worth their weight in RAM chips. And several of the "nutshell" books on managing and using UUCP are on our must read list.

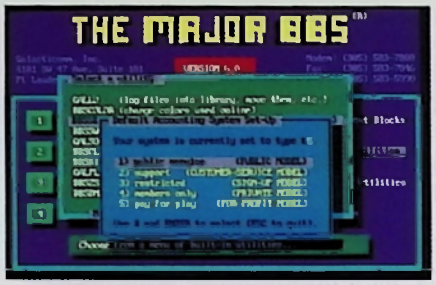
O'Reilly specializes in UNIX documentation and recently has launched a pretty impressive series of titles on the XWINDOWS protocol.

The latest offering we've been privileged to view is titled ***THE WHOLE INTERNET USER'S GUIDE & CATALOG***. For those a little short of time to read this review, you needn't bother. This book is currently THE definitive user guide to the Internet, and it frankly has no close rivals. A simple recommendation - if you are interested in the Internet, buy it. It is scheduled for release on September 8, 1992.

101 Reasons to Cho

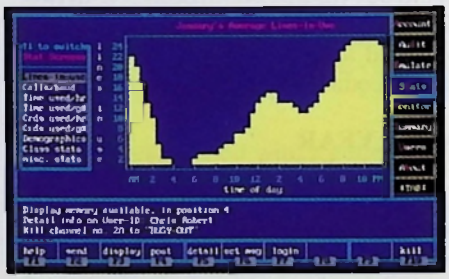
1. No source code is required to integrate add-on options.
2. You can support up to 256 simultaneous users on a single personal computer.
3. ZMODEM, YMODEM-G, YMODEM-Batch, XMODEM-1K, XMODEM, KERMIT, Super KERMIT, and ASCII file transfer protocols are included.
4. A full-screen editor with block commands and paragraph formatting, is included.
5. Message quoting is supported.
6. Proprietary Locks and Keys™ security now gives you *millions* of security levels.
7. Users can log into your BBS through your Novell network.
8. Offer up to 3500 public message Forums.
9. We provide free, unlimited, technical support (within reason).

10. Have as many "classes" of users as you like for accounting and security purposes.
11. It includes a multi-user teleconference with 65,535 channels, "whisper", "scan", and "moderate" commands.
12. An MHS gateway is included; share messages with cc:Mail, DaVinci E-Mail, and other MHS applications.
13. You can even send MHS messages to other gateways, including MCI Mail, Compu Serve, Internet, X.400 networks...
14. Users can view the contents of .ZIP, .ARC, .LZH, and .ICE files online.
15. You can create weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly subscription accounts.
16. Bar graphs are displayed for a variety of system usage statistics.
17. A common group of "keys" can be combined into a "keyring" that can be shared by many users.
18. An online polls-and-questionnaires facility is included.
19. Users can request "return receipts" and send "carbon copies" of E-mail to individuals or distribution lists.
20. A direct-connect X.25 network option is available.
21. You can tag a group of files to be downloaded at once with a batch transfer.
22. You can design your own menu tree with options leading to BBS functions, file displays or other menu pages.
23. Runs under regular MS-DOS 3.3 or better — no multitasking OS required!
24. User account information can be saved to fixed-length ASCII and imported into dBase, Paradox, Q&A, etc.
25. An Audit Trail tracks all transactions on your system; powerful searching utility included.



26. Experienced users can jump directly to menu options using a "GO" command.
27. One-on-one chat mode is included.
28. You can generate mailing labels for direct mail campaigns.
29. The File Library can have unlimited sub-libraries, each with its own DOS path.
30. CD-ROM drives are supported.
31. Keyword searching, file attachment, and message threading features are included in the Forums.
32. You can monitor all system activity at once from your main console.
33. Users can page each other throughout the system.
34. A user registry database lets everyone publicize some information about themselves.
35. You can copy whole menu branches, edit their parameters, and re-order menu options.
36. An ANSI drawing tool is included that helps you create customized menu displays that dazzle your users.
37. You can offer "upload royalties".
38. BBSETUP automatically finds communications hardware in your computer and configures channel groups for you.
39. You can use all COM1, COM2, COM3, and COM4 ports at once.
40. Users with different keys can be routed to different menu branches.
41. Users can be routed to different menu branches according to the phone number they dial — run multiple BBSes at once!

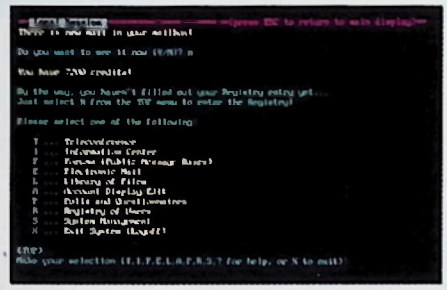
42. Each Forum can have its own teleconference for real-time discussions.
43. The full 'C' source code is available.
44. An "emulate" feature lets you peek over the shoulder of any user, putting your keyboard and screen in parallel with theirs.
45. On pay-for-use systems, online time can be metered by the second.
46. We include SPXTALK, our LAN access terminal program.
47. If a user doesn't have access to a menu option, you can either display it, dim it (using ANSI color), or hide it completely.
48. You can let callers use full names or aliases.
49. You can arrange for the system to shutdown and execute batch processes at configured timed events.
50. You can assign read-only, read/write, or co-management access to Forums.
51. Each Forum can export messages to an MHS address for networked group mail services.
52. You can allow users to "run up a tab" and generate a report every month or every week for billing purposes.
53. There are dozens of third-party developers providing add-on software for The Major BBS.
54. There's even a built-in screen saver.
55. Because the BBS runs in protected mode, you can add several megabytes of add-on software.
56. We offer hardware solutions to rack up dozens of standard COM1/2/3/4 internal or external modems to your computer.
57. You can reset or busy-out any of your lines from the main console.
58. Our advertising tells you what we can do for you, not what motorcycle our president rides to work.



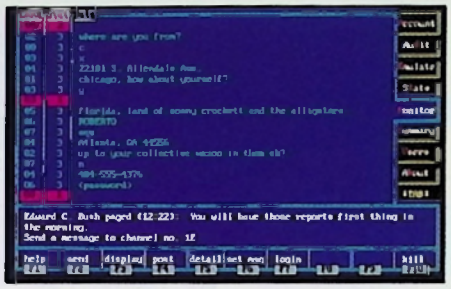
59. We don't use exclamation points in our product name — it speaks for itself.
60. Our literature doesn't repeat our president's name every three paragraphs.
61. Our Remote Sysop Menu lets you control your BBS from anywhere in the world.
62. Users can automatically log off the system after an upload or download is completed.
63. You can restrict your system from allowing new sign-ups for a completely private-access BBS, if you like.
64. Modem/serial connections up to 38,400 bps are supported.
65. Authorize as many co-Sysops as you want.
66. Offline reports are available for user accounts, user "classes", user "keys", Forum access, and more.

...se The Major BBS®

67. A Top 10 Downloads list is maintained for each sub-library.
68. Users can forward or copy E-mail and Forum messages.
69. You can have two CRTs at your Sysop console, for a panoramic view.
70. Our full-screen configuration editor lets you easily customize all the messages in your system.
71. A Shopping Mall add-on option lets you handle catalog sales and online order entry.
72. Supporting more simultaneous users is as easy as installing "User Six-Packs" and plugging in additional modems.
73. Users can make public or private replies to Forum messages.
74. The Sysop console provides context-sensitive help.
75. You can edit user accounts directly from the Sysop console.



76. You can perform elementary DOS commands while the system is running: COPY, DIR, DEL, REN, MD, etc.
77. A database add-on option lets you create custom data entry or search-and-retrieve services online.
78. Our B-Tree indexed database engine assures power-fail data integrity.
79. Users can have E-mail messages "auto-forwarded" to another User-ID or a MHS address.
80. Old messages and unused accounts can be automatically purged from the system.



81. New users can be automatically sent a welcome E-mail message with a help file attached.
82. The entire documentation has been rewritten with screen shots, diagrams, tips and tricks, and a clear writing style.
83. Connect-time charges can vary for each function or Forum in the BBS.
84. Automatic Software Update Program is available on a yearly subscription basis.
85. You can log on locally from the main console exactly as if you had called in over a phone line.
86. Users can resume aborted downloads.
87. A User-ID cross referencing feature lets users quickly find who they want to write a message to, even if they don't know the full name of the recipient.
88. You can import text into messages from other messages or ASCII text files.
89. As the Sysop, you can log on in "invisible mode", to go about the system undisturbed.
90. You get a 30 day money-back guarantee.
91. Users can edit their account information in a full-screen data entry mode.
92. You can ask up to 10 custom sign-up questions when a user creates a new account.
93. A neat utility lets you globally change all the ANSI colors in your configured messages.
94. You can configure the BBS to automatically suppress profanity.
95. A Games and Entertainment add-on option is available which includes multi-user poker, blackjack, bingo, Flash™ games, hangman, a multi-player text adventure and more.
96. You can have a time limit per call and a time limit per day for each user.
97. The Advanced LAN Option is available for even more flexibility with your Novell network.
98. There's a 976-BBS add-on option that lets your customers purchase online time via a 976- or a 1-900- number.
99. You can receive round-the-clock support on our own Demo System BBS; give it a call at (305) 583-7808.
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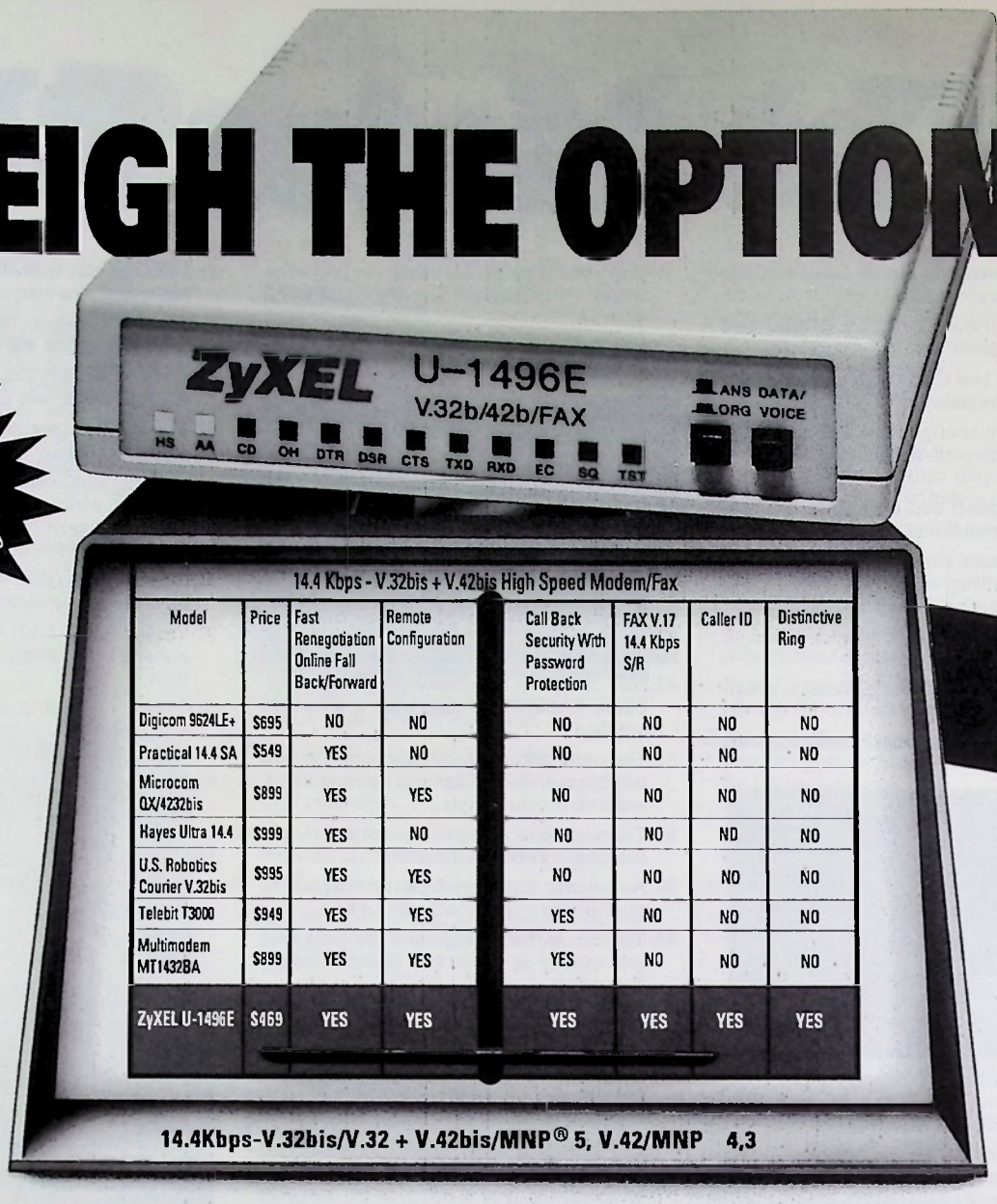

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Practical 14.4 SA	$549	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Microcom QX/4232bis	$899	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Hayes Ultra 14.4	$999	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
U.S. Robotics Courier V.32bis	$995	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Telebit T3000	$949	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Multimodem MT1432BA	$899	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
ZyXEL U-1496E	$469	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

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Comparison chart was completed in May, 1992.

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Zen Den Systems	(209) 675-8436	Jack Porter	Madera, CA
Random Access Info. Net	(503) 695-3250	Janice Stevens/Greg Skinner	Cobett, OR
Titan Software Solutions	(904) 476-1270	Clayton Manson	Pensacola, FL
Studs BBS	(415) 495-2929	Hans Braun	San Francisco, CA
Intimate Visions	(404) 244-7059	Gary Dawson	Decatur, GA
The Source	(310) 371-3737	Chip North	Lawndale, CA
Nix Pix Windy City	(708) 564-1064	Robert Copella	North Brook, IL
Binary Information Net	(201) 617-8054	George and Barbara Eppich	Union City, NJ
File Shop	(816) 587-3311	Walt Lane	Kansas City, MO
MOGUR's EMS	(818) 366-1238	Tom Tcimpidus	Granada Hills, CA
Susquehanna Speedway	(717) 652-9291	Dave Mauretic	Harrisburg, PA
Walden's Puddle BBS	(607) 687-6193	Keven Brokaw	Owego, NY
BackDoor (Williamsburg)	(804) 229-7269	Fred Whittom/Peter Conway	Williamsburg, VA
AtlantaCOM BBS	(404) 717-9867	Kevin Whitney	Duluth, GA
Ya WeBeCad	(812) 422-9403	Dan Habegger	Evensville, IN
Geneva Convention	(812) 284-1321	Head Pervert	Clarksville, IN
Radio Daze	(219) 256-2255	Michael Shannon	Nishawaka, IN

When you only have time to call the very best!

The book is authored by Ed Krol, Assistant Director for LAN Deployment, Computing and Communications Office, University of Illinois. As such, he effectively served as a defacto network manager of the National Center for Supercomputer Applications. After several years of answering the same questions repeatedly regarding the Internet, he wrote an electronic guide titled "***Hitchhiker's Guide to the Internet***" that traveled rather widely online in electronic form and for some time comprised the best available documentation for the network. New users were routinely referred to this file. It was actually adopted as one of the Request For Comment (RFC) files that come as close as anything to "official" documentation for the Internet (***RFC 1118***).

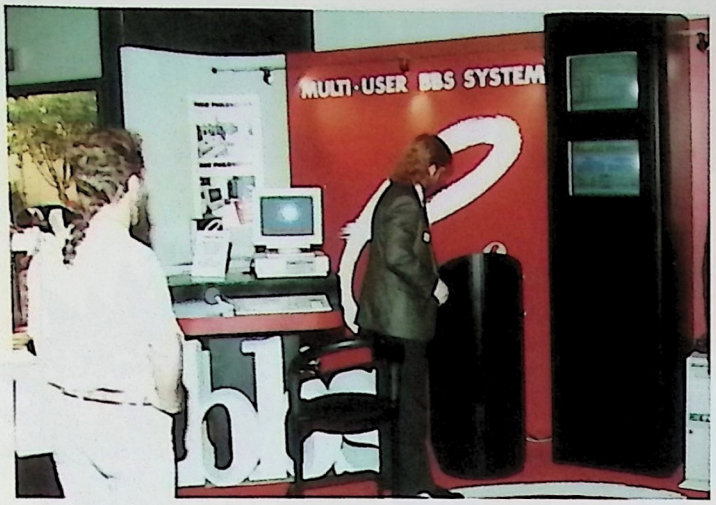
In ***THE WHOLE INTERNET USER'S GUIDE AND CATALOG***, Krol expands this documentation by at least an order of magnitude. The book runs some 300 pages in 14 chapters. One of the paradoxes of modern academia is that in the area of writing, a discipline central to teaching and learning, clarity and usefulness have largely given way to rigor and defensibility. The result too often is stupefyingly boring and wordy prose unpublishable but by the grace of University vanity presses and academic journals. Krol is a welcome exception. This book is clear, conversational, and sprinkled with anecdotes that illustrate his points.

The book does a good job of covering basic items such as electronic mail, telnet, ftp, and Usenet News Groups. The electronic mail description, goes beyond just how to send and e-mail message to include tips and pointers on when and how to use e-mail, what some of the perceptual limitations are, and things NOT to do with electronic mail. Like much of the book, this description tries to impart some of the cultural or environmental elements of participating in the Internet, and does a superb job of it. Krol has obviously sent and received a lot of e-mail.

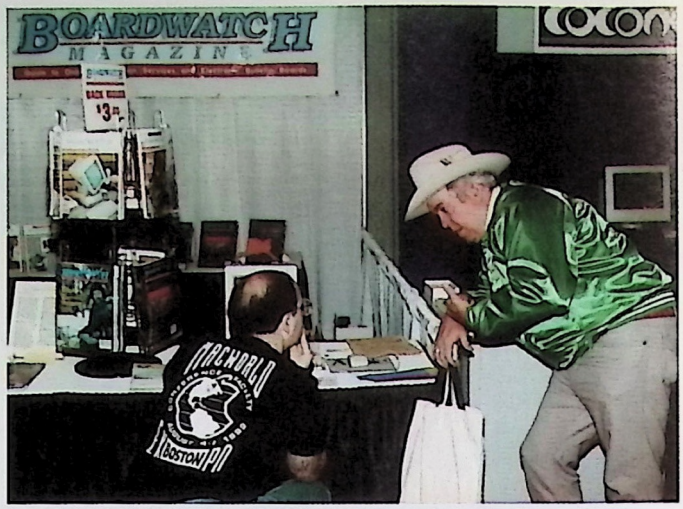
But a great deal of the charm of this book has to do with the calendar. Things have progressed quickly in the Internet and works earlier viewed as definitive, have simply fallen behind the curve. In Chapter 9, Krol provides a marvelous description of **ARCHIE,** a database of **900** file servers containing **1.5 million** files available by anonymous ftp. You can use this database to locate almost any PD or shareware program. Chapter 10 describes how to find someone on the Internet and includes very useful information not previously documented widely.

The heart of this book is in manuscript actually as Chapter 11, Finding Anything. So much so, the publisher informs us they intend to split the chapter up into three separate chapters. Currently, the chapter describes three relatively new services on the Internet for locating things. **GOPHER** is a top-level menu system that accesses other information services across the Internet. It was first developed on a system at the University of Minnesota, home of the Golden Gophers. It's primary function is to "go fer" things, so a dual pun was appropriate.

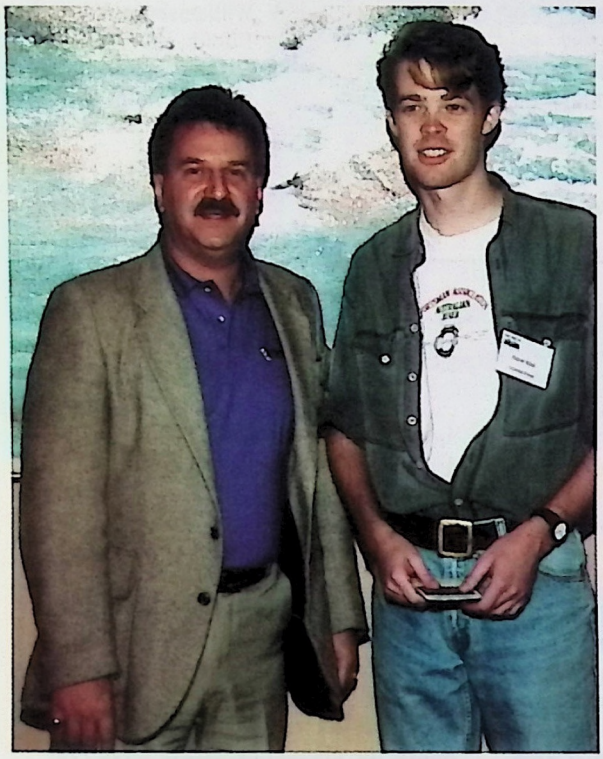
The chapter also covers **Wide Area Information Servers** (WAIS). WAIS is a kind of indexed search tool to locate items based on what they contain - using keyword text searches mainly.



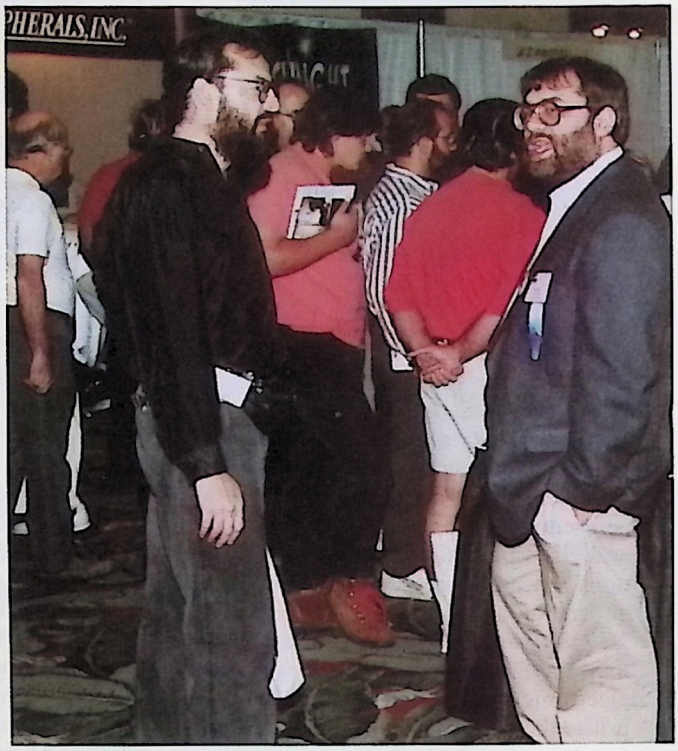
Alan Bryant at the eSoft Booth
So where does the soda come out?



Dave Hughes Sr. of Old Colorado City Communications (right)
"NAPLPS on MAC? Haww...let me tell you..."



Andrew Milner, author of Remote Access (right)
"Denver - that's on the way to Brussels, right?"



Lance Rose, author of Syslaw (right) on Exhibit Floor.
"Sure, someplace it would be legal, but here on earth..."

Chat Roundtable (L-R) - Mitchnik, Kerl, Javoric, Lomasky, and Brinker

Dealing with the Press - Warren, Anis, Foulks, Gram-Reefer, Coursey

Boardwatch 100 Awards - Canada Remote Systems #1
(L-R)Jack Rickard, Jud Newell, Neil Fleming

Fred Clark - author of PCBoard
A thousand BBS operators?

Kevin Behrens of Chicago's Aquila BBS
"Hey...get your own coffee"

Rick Heming, Mustang Software
"Hmmm...that coffee smells fantastic."

14.4 MODEMS

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Finally, Chapter 11 discusses a relatively new service titled **World-Wide Web** or WWW, originally developed at CERN, the European particle physics laboratory. WWW is much like Gopher in that it provides a top level access down to other services on the Internet. But the Web uses a hypertext interface with cross links between things - highlighted words you can use to jump off onto another track. You can try WWW by telnet info.cern.ch.

Two things in writing about the Internet come up almost immediately and quite understandably: What is it, and how do I join it. Unlike almost any other subject, neither of these obviously necessary bits of information are actually available in the normal sense. What Internet is depends on what you want it to be, where you view it from, what degree you are connected to it, and what you use it for. Both spanning and bridging continents, it is a classic example of the old metaphor of arranging six blind men around an elephant, asking them all to feel of the part of it they can reach, and then asking them each to describe what it is. Krol actually provides a lucid and conversational description of the Internet, various levels of connectivity, what some of the rules and conventions are, legal responsibilities, and so forth. He presents this information in fairly absolute terms, when most of his position is actually highly colored by his background and position in relation to the Internet. Some of this dogmatic portion of Internet lore was never really fully subscribed to by all, and a lot of it is undergoing change even in consensus now. Some elements of the commercial use of the Internet, for example, have never been as clearly cut as he implies.

But since you must describe it from SOME point of view, we can hardly fault him. It makes as much sense as you'll find elsewhere. And some of the background material as to WHY things appear to work the way they do will likely be very useful to those first encountering the culture of the Internet.

As to finding a connection, this book provides an excellent appendix listing places to call where you can discuss the topic with varying levels of success. Given the current state of the network, it is as good as we've seen, and until some rational order is brought to this topic within the network itself, no one is going to cure this conundrum with a book.

Overall, ***The Whole Internet User's Guide and Catalog*** is the most comprehensive and at the same time understandable documentation available in print for using the Internet. It is full of examples on specifically how to accomplish certain things, without going overboard on the technical aspects of how they are done. And it does a superb job of giving the reader a sense of the culture of the Internet and how it affects behavior and people-to-people interaction across the net. It is in this last area where the book becomes fascinating, and in our estimation, required reading. O'Reilly & Associates, Inc., 103 Morris Street, Suite A, Sebastopol, CA 95472; **(800)998-9938** voice; **(707)829-0515** international; **(707)829-0104** fax

COMMERCIALLY ONLINE

PRODIGY ANNOUNCES 9600 ACCESS - INTERNET E-MAIL - AND A HIGHER PRICE

Prodigy Services Company, a joint venture of IBM and Sears, has made the largest move on the consumer online services market with an investment estimated at some $800 million. While there is no end in sight to the red ink, the service has gained something of a following with 1.6 million signed up for the service and currently over a half-million logons per day. If you work out the math, they've spent right at $500 per subscriber to get them online, but they do enjoy the largest single body of online users on a commercial service.

On September 11, they unveiled the most aggressive enhancement to their service ever. The new services include **9600 bps access** from most major cities. One of the constant criticisms of Prodigy was the slow response of the service. But the graphics provided are attractive and inherently slow things

down a bit. The 9600 bps access should alleviate this problem a bit. There will be an additional fee for 9600 bps access, and they haven't quite decided what it will be yet, but the service is expected before the end of the year. Prodigy sold nearly **150,000** 2400 bps modems with their starter kit at **$49.95** so far this year. The company is planning a similar package for the 9600 bps service to include a CCITT v.32 modem. Again, they haven't publicly announced pricing, but rumor has it the modem will be made by Cardinal and the price will be **$99.95**. If true, this would fairly dramatically change the price point for high speed modems.

Perhaps as significant as the higher access speeds is a general change of heart regarding e-mail. In an earlier issue of ***Boardwatch*** several months ago we reported the rumor that Prodigy was considering an **Internet connection**. It appears they will have one. Even better, they are introducing a new e-mail software program allowing callers to create, read, and respond to electronic mail offline - and import text from popular word processing packages such as Word Perfect. The software also allows users to send fax or street mail messages via the Prodigy service. This "supplemental software" will be sold, and again they don't know how much it will be. The Internet, fax, and street mail deliveries will all incur additional surcharges - and no, they don't know what that will be priced at yet either.

They DO know that they are again raising the price of the basic service from **$12.95** to **$14.95** per month. One of the main selling points of the service originally was flat rate pricing at **$9.95** per month. History. Worse, the company is increasingly introducing "additional" services at surcharges. A new Sesame Street Custom Choice service providing "**Muppet Mail**" runs an additional **$9.95** monthly - for the first five hours of use.

The bulletin board area is also getting a facelift. The bulletin-board topics are generating some **80,000** messages daily, with some **500,000** messages available at any one time (messages are held about a week). By year's end, Prodigy plans to triple the number of bulletin board topics to more than **400**.

The Prodigy online service is experimenting with several politically informative services. The system offers a database on federal and state politics, and regular contributions from political columnists Jack Germond and Robert Novak on political issues. The also host an online game titled "The Next President" that simulates a presidential election campaign.

In August and September, both George Bush and Bill Clinton agreed to do a bit of campaigning online. President Bush posted a position statements on August 26, September 9, September 23, and October 4. In response to the first position paper, Prodigy users responded with more than 20,000 comments. Bush staffers selected five questions each week posed by Prodigy members and drafted replies that were approved by Bush. Governor Clinton, not to be left out, agreed to answer ten questions per day for a week.

On election night, every member of the Prodigy service will be able to obtain updates on local Congressional races every 20 minutes by simply entering their zip code. Full coverage of all national, House, Senate and gubernatorial races, updated continuously, will be supplemented by commentary from Prodigy political columnists. Prodigy Services Company, 445 Hamilton Ave., White Plains, NY 10601; **(800)PRODIGY.**

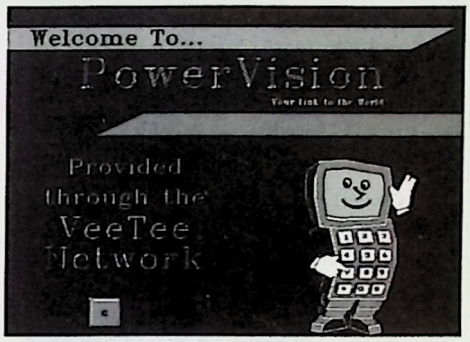
ALINE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE LOWERS PRICES

Aline, an online service operated by Newcom Link of New York City, has developed a following by providing chat service and e-mail on an international basis. Originally part of France's Minitel, the service was made available to North American callers at **$15.00** hourly.

In August, the service changed it's pricing structure to a flat **$7.80** monthly for callers dialing the service directly at their 1200 bps **(212)935-8787** number in New York. Aline claims participation from Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, and Italy. The service also offers daily horoscopes, an online psychotherapist, and stock market information.

By using a free, proprietary graphical communications program available from the company, callers can also participate in multiplayer games such as Red Baron, Torpedos, or Chess. Barry Kominik, Newcom Link, 450 Park Ave., Suite 2803, New York, NY 10022; **(212)832-8311** voice; **(212)832-8312** fax.

POWERVISION BRINGS MULTI-LEVEL MARKETING ONLINE



Multi-level marketing evokes a strong reaction from two types of people. The first group glazes over with visions of annuities at every rumor of a new "plan". Their calculators chatter endlessly, and they can almost instantly mentally visualize an entire pyramid of thousands of hapless yucks at the drop of a starter kit. I've known individuals who in serial fashion have tried selling motor oil, vitamins, soap, diet plans, water filters, and almost anything else that had a commission schedule and an appropriately motivational meeting in a Howard Johnsons somewhere.

The second group would as soon try to suck-start an Oldsmobile through the exhaust pipe as to try to build a "downline." I must admit I fall rather squarely into the latter group. And that, with no particular affection for Oldsmobiles. After just a few encounters with the anointed of the MLM world, my general impression is that here is a crew that will generally eat whatever they find dead on the road - and then meet happily in the rain to convince each other how damned delicious it really was.

The basic premise is that you sell the privilege of selling to the next guy in the chain. Most plans don't have any end consumer per se, they just keep selling to a chain of salesmen. This would be ok, if it were not such a competitive world. But to build a commission into the price of a product sufficient to be attractive to six or more levels of salesmen, the price of the product is generally some multiple of what you can get an equivalent product for almost anywhere. So to be successful, the product must be uniquely available through the chain. To be saleable, it must also appeal to a significant portion of the population. There just isn't anything unique, capable of commanding a premium price, and at the same time appealing to a large market. If there was, someone else would make it and sell it less expensively. So multi-level marketing essentially has no economic basis. It shouldn't work at all.

For a few, it actually does work after a fashion. What it really sells, however, is the idea of starting your own business, working independently, and making money at it. This is a powerful dream, and it is the essential product of any of these plans. My position of late has been if you want that, then start a BBS and to hell with the soap. PowerVision of San Diego may have found a way to marry the two concepts. The resulting hybrid exhibits some interesting characteristics.

A significant, though largely undefined percentage of people joining commercial online services do so at the behest of a friend or associate. At least then, they have someone to send e-mail to. Basically, we've reached the point where a noticeable percentage of the population are now at least vaguely aware that they want to "be online." But if they haven't yet made the trip, they run into the curiously midwestern situation where "You can't get there from here. You have to go somewhere else first.". For many, the buddy system is the route to getting connected.

PowerVision is a Prodigy-like commercial online service promoted through the multi-level marketing technique. Let's look at the service itself first, and then the marketing.

PowerVision is a computer network of high-powered PCs as terminal servers tied to a Solbourne Unix minicomputer. It is accessible from most U.S. cities by dialing a local Tymnet number. They provide access at either 2400 or 9600 bps through the Tymnet X.25 packet network at essentially the same price. The interface, like Prodigy, and like the Wheelbase service reviewed a few issues ago, is very graphic. Unique to anything we've seen before, the interface includes the liberal use of bit-image photographs. These are actually lossy "fractal" compressions of photographic bit images. They are a bit fuzzy, but good enough to get a pretty good idea of what a thing looks like. Company spokesmen claim the image looks better on SuperVGA screens and a new version of the software will autodetect more capable systems for better images. The fractal compression allows them to reduce the file size such that almost any image will transmit via 9600 X.25 packet link in about 20 seconds or less. The interface does make use of a mouse, and is overall quite good.

The starter package contains software on both 3.5 and 5 1/4-inch diskettes in a small mailer easily as professional as Prodigy's kit. It includes a book listing local access numbers, installation instructions, etc. We found it installed easily. We did not need to strip our CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files to get it to work as is often required with the quirky Prodigy installation. It asks for your COM port, modem speed, and local access number. Very nicely put together actually.

The service itself is perhaps a bit more generally BBSlike than Prodigy. It does have file downloads, and a brief set of file areas where you can download games and utility software. User-to-user electronic mail is of course standard. And the service does sport several online text services such as USA Today and shows menu options for several magazines including OMNI. They are not available yet, but should be before the end of the year. Online horoscopes, and movie reviews are generally interesting.

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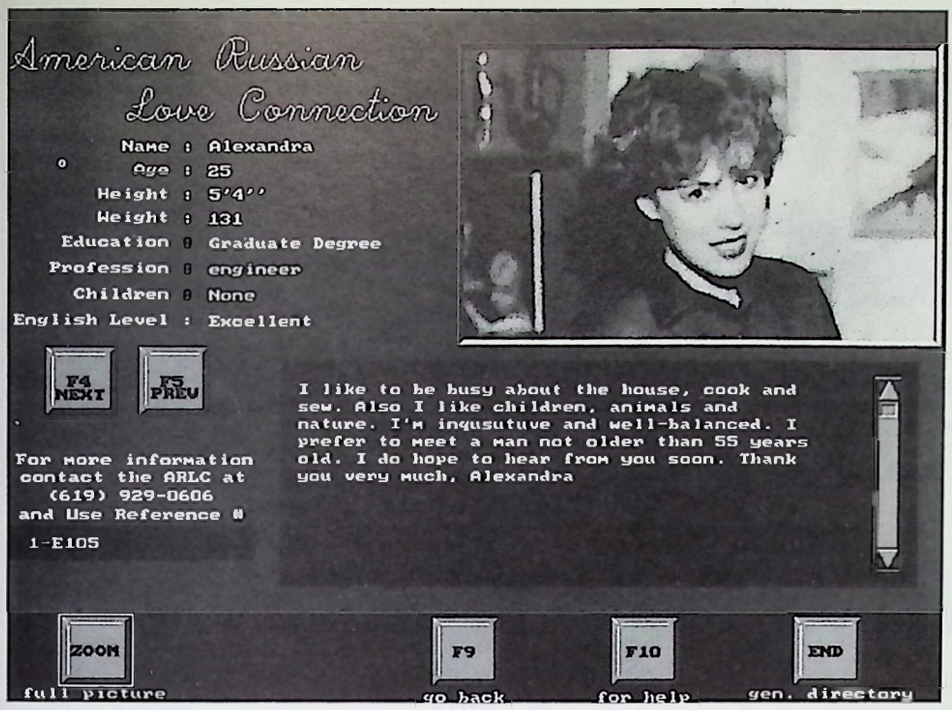

After performing introductions for several friends, the man hit on the idea of doing this all online. The result on PowerVision is a collection of several hundred advertisements by young Russian women seeking U.S. mates. Each ad contains information on height, weight, education, English ability, profession, age, and again, a brief message from the woman herself regarding what her interests are and what she seeks in a partner. Most powerfully, the narratives are accompanied by a fractal image of the woman - a scanned photograph. Despite a slightly crass presentation, the resulting effect is actually quite striking. If you find a prospective mail order bride in this catalog of slavic lovelies, you can dial a voice number and note a reference number from the screen for more information and instructions on how to get to Moscow.

One feature we found notable was labeled GOVERNMENT ACCESS. This is actually a mail service where you can send a letter to your congressman. Better, it actually looks up who your elected representatives ARE and addresses mail to them. You simply fill out the body of the message and it is forwarded for you. Since an alarming percentage of our population doesn't even know who their congressional representative is, this is a cunning feature.

A couple of things we found unique made use of the fractal photo images. One of these is Picture Perfect Personals. These are personal ads much as you would find in any of the community pulp publications catering to boy looking to meet girl, and versa visa. The callers can enter their first name, a brief ad message of twelve or fifteen lines, and their e-mail address. If you are interested in one of these people, you can easily e-mail them directly.

Uniquely, the service also allows you to mail in a photograph, and for an additional fee of $20, they will scan it and it will appear on screen along with your ad. The photo takes up the upper right quarter of the display, but anyone can click on the ZOOM button to blow the photo up to full screen size. Obviously, we would prefer to see them allow you to upload your own PCX or GIF image and have them do the fractal conversion online - without the fee. That's probably what it will take to get this function off the ground. Interestingly, the photos can also be appended to regular e-mail messages.

This same theme is repeated in Picture Perfect Properties, a Real Estate section where homes are advertised for sale. In the case of homes, the information about the house, asking price, number of bedrooms, etc., are accompanied by a photo of the property and the telephone number where you can call for more information.

The service went operational on July 22, and at the start of September when we called, there were just a handful of homes and personal ads available.

Another area on the system we found most interesting in a tasteless sort of way, was the American-Russian Love connection. This is a "premium" service at an additional dime a minute. The brains behind this operation made the connection with a Moscow lovely, traveled there, and subsequently married and brought her to the states. He highly recommends Russian maidens as they are apparently quite steeped in traditional family values and take great pride in maintaining a proper home and family. That works. Since the end of the cold war, many of them rather fancy the idea of emigrating to the United States, and marriage to an American is the logical path.

The design of PowerVision is apparently focused on the online shopping rubric. And the system does have an impressive array of categories and products. They rather boldly proclaim that they will refund double the difference if you find a cheaper price on a listed item, and further they have a program where they double the warranties on anything purchased. They list clothing, food, furniture, office equipment, tools (Urrgh - let's rewire that hummer), software, and on endlessly - all things you can order online. We found much of this reasonably inexpensive, but not really impressively so. An HP 300 plain-paper fax was listed at $1559. We saw one downtown at CW electronics for $1299. Assuming they haven't buried some small print somewhere, you should be able to get it net for ($1559 - 2 X $260 = $1039). Word Perfect was $272 - not bad, but you can beat that price rather easily. The promoters insist they have the best prices in the world and promote PowerVision very much as a buyer's club type situation. Like most of these situations, it depends on what you buy. Computer hardware and software is a tough test with prices in free fall almost everywhere. We're just not very good comparative shoppers on anything else so we may not be a good judge. There are LOTS of things to buy here - furniture, tools, clothes, food. And unlike Prodigy, they are all re-

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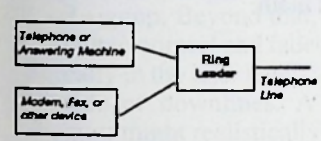

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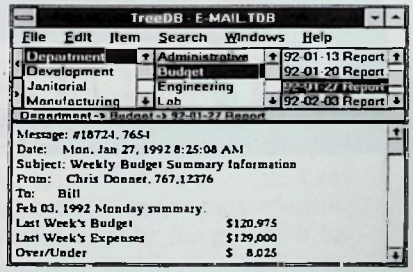

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stricted to appropriate menus - not sprinkled through everything ELSE you might want to do.

The service also has discounts on restaurants and services such as eye exams, tires, dentists, and so forth. These are keyed to local areas. The design looks good, but as a young service, they haven't lined up a lot of local stuff outside of San Diego yet. We found one downtown Mexican restaurant here in Denver, and there was a 15% discount available on meals.

The service is very easy to navigate - even for complete novices. And it is visually striking. We found several situations where screens repainted oddly or in some cases with obvious errors, but they will undoubtedly get those ironed out rather quickly. The system was slow in spots, particularly when sending e-mail or when viewing screens with fractal images - but not noticeably slower than Prodigy or other graphic based services. The one thing noticeably missing was conference areas - where callers could discuss things publicly under various topics. According to Jeffrey Cohen, head of the service, any individual or group can have their own conference area for $495 and there should be some soon. We hope so. Again and again commercial services, including Prodigy originally, underrate the importance of the original BBS function - public discussion. It is always popular and systems that don't provide it have a terribly difficult time retaining users.

What might launch PowerVision more quickly than any other online service introduction to date is specifically the multi-level marketing aspect of their introduction. The price to join PowerVision is a fairly steep $79. The recurring charges are an again troublesome $18.95 per month. This includes two hours per month of free online time and additional time is 9 cents per minute ($5.40 per hour). PowerVision will send you $20 worth of the grocery coupons of your choice each month by mail to help defray this. Prodigy, by comparison, is $49.95 to join, $12.95 per month, and increasingly leaning toward additional charges for such things as downloads and special areas as well. So from what we have to compare with, PowerVision is a bit pricey, but offers slightly different services. If you actively use grocery coupons, it's probably a wash.

The multi-level marketing aspect works like this. To become an "Independent Associate" costs nothing additional. You simply fill out a form saying you want to be one. You can then sign up friends, relatives, people you find sleeping in the street, or whatever. You get $10 of their initial $79 signup fee. You also get $1 each time they pay another month at $18.95. If you sign up six people, you become eligible to get commissions on whatever THEY sell. And you get $10 for each person THEY sign up, and $1 per month for each monthly fee received from their people. This actually continues six levels deep. Consider the theoretical math:

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–Mike Callaghan, *Dr. File Finder's Guide to Shareware.*

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POWERVISION MULTILEVEL

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6 people - $60 + $6 mo
36 people - $360 + $36 mo
216 people - $2160 + $216 mo
1296 people - $12960 + $1296 mo
7776 people - $77,760 + $7776 mo
46,656 people - $466,560 + $46,656 mo

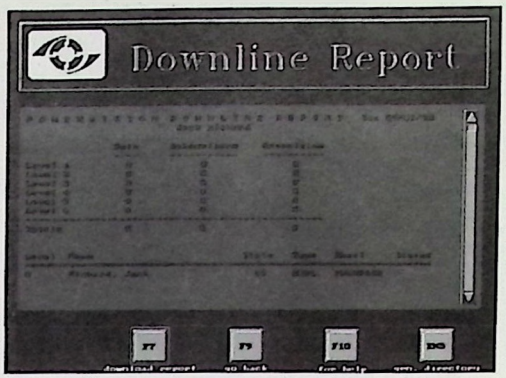
This "full" pyramid, if practical, would render you some **$559,860** in signup fees and a monthly income of **$55,986**. And as they point out, the six YOU signup is a minimum to get the level commissions. You can of course sign up more yourself.

As a practical matter, with herculean efforts, you can probably sign up your six and see that most of the 36 in level 2 signup. Beyond that, it's pretty difficult to control and fades rather dramatically in the later levels. That's the down side of downlines. A real multilevel guru might realistically generate $5000 or so in signup commissions and $600 to $800 per month income. But if you like that sort of work, it's not bad for an initial investment of some $79. It certainly wouldn't be difficult to do enough of it to be online for free for a long time. It has apparently been attractive to the MLM crowd. The service currently has about a thousand users, and some 1600 Independent Associates selling it. There are more selling the service already than there are on it.

And the technology itself serves the market. Multilevel marketing people love to communicate with each other. Everyone you sign up under this program automatically becomes reachable by electronic mail. With this service, they have the medium to communicate nationally and at their convenience, and perhaps as importantly - a built in topic of conversation - how you're doing in your downline selling PowerVision. Further, the service has a whole area about PowerVision itself. You can logon and actually see a graphic depiction of your "downline" online. You can order various video tapes, sales brochures, signup forms, etc. online. And again, this is done in a pretty classy fashion. You can get a "starter kit" with scads o' forms and things for **$39** - entirely optional. And the company will refund 100% of the purchase price of unused marketing materials you might return - without time limit.

Is it legal? Although the company seems to be based in San Diego, they have a letter from Jim Mattox, previously the Texas State Attorney General, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and now it would appear at least partially employed in selling letters (I guess that's what lawyers do for the most part). Mr. Mattox claims that because PowerVision has a real product usable by end consumers, and because they charge nothing to be a sales agent, and because sales agents can't really purchase inventory in excess of their personal use, the plan is unlikely to encounter difficulties from state or federal regulators. It does appear to forgo most of the things we dislike about multilevel marketing programs.

So what is this thing anyway? Basically, it looks like a graphically progressive online service that is just a tad pricey, but which allows anyone who signs on to get a cut of the future action. And virtually every member then becomes a salesman for the service. This augurs for a very fast ramp up of an online service. If it starts to catch on, it will likely do so in a big way. According to PowerVision spokesman Leslie Nary, they had signed on over 1600 "Independent Associates" by September 1. If these initial users can get their first two levels filled in the next six months, we would see an online service jump from 0 to 75,000 curiously driven users in a six month period, with minimal marketing costs. The service itself is attractive and useful, and introduces several innovations to the commercial online service market. It badly needs some topical discussion areas with moderators and so forth to compete with existing online services. If it does grow as rapidly as we think it will, it may encounter some pretty serious technical problems holding the whole thing together. It could use an Internet e-mail connection, and according to Jeffrey Cohen, none is planned. But overall we think this one bears watching. PowerVision, 11199 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite L, San Diego, CA 92121; **(619)546-2343** voice; **(619)452-0369** fax; **(800)658-1210** for subscription information.



DIRECT DIAL

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION GUN-TALK BBS.

There are a couple of issues in our nation today that are known as "divisive". This is a term referring to the fact that there are good and plenty reason to take either side of the argument, and a great many people do. Almost everyone involved in the abortion issue, for example, is sure there is only one side to this argument. And there are plenty of proponents holding that view on both sides.

One of the most intractably divisive issues revolves around our relationship to firearms. To anyone who has lost a loved one to violence or suicide involving a handgun, the easy availability of the devices seems to be in and of itself an evil thing. The endless series of "what ifs" and "if only's" that follow such a tragedy lead inevitably to the fact that if the gun hadn't been there, the victim wouldn't have been shot. Since the gun is a more concrete and understandable symbol of the event than any of the naturally complex causes leading to the fateful tragedy, the gun itself becomes a target. And in campaigning for an end to senseless slaughter, the victim's family can assign some value to the death.

Personally, I'm coming to believe television is more lethal than guns are. Within just my lifetime, television has developed into the central campfire of our society. And for hour after hour, people are shooting people in such numbers that it looks like a 25-inch diagonal war zone. Rambo, Lethal

Weapon, and more. I actually found myself enthralled by a pair of movies titled TERMINATOR and TERMINATOR II that were nothing but 90 minutes of rapid fire gunfire interspersed with a bit of auto wreckage. I was actually fairly aroused by a somewhat mousey looking gal cocking an enormous Remington shotgun she repeatedly fired point blank into a shiny metallic fellow who didn't really seem to mind and never would die from the gunshots. They finally had to melt him down. And it seems no one can understand why our KIDS, children of 13 and 14, are now carrying guns to school. Their world, largely viewed through a 25-inch window, includes gun fire and death as standard fare between commercials. Powerful guys have and shoot guns a lot. The weak don't.

On the other hand, our existence as a nation came about by an armed citizenry rising in armed rebellion against an existing government. Written into the second amendment to the constitution forming the theoretical basis of our current government, as part of a bill of rights, was a fairly specific right to keep and to bear arms. There has been a valiant struggle in our current government to somehow translate this into a different meaning altogether from its original. Several Supreme Court justices have decided that what it REALLY meant was that individual states have the right to sport a national guard - all under the beck and call of the Federal Government of course. And that it didn't REALLY mean individuals should actually be allowed to own or carry guns.

Note that while this thinking can be commonly found among legal scholars, it's never really found a home among historians. There may or may not be good and plenty reason to ban the sale of guns in 1992. But in the late eighteenth century, the founding fathers not only meant, but wrote down in fairly specific terms that the government specifically was barred from infringing the right to keep and bear arms. We only need to examine similar clauses, that often go into greater detail, in the constitutions of most of the states making up the union at that time to clear up any manufactured fuzziness of intent here. Essentially, ANY laws addressing in any fashion what fire arms or other weapons you can and cannot own, maintain, and even carry may be necessary, good, and enacted with the finest intent - or not. It doesn't much matter. They were in violation of our constitution they very day they were written. As far as I can tell, it would require repeal of the second amendment of the United States Constitution to make it illegal for an individual to own an 80 megaton thermonuclear device. Even an automatic one. He could wear it on his hip on Broadway.

We had a recent case of a Mr. Weaver up in northern Idaho that lived in the woods, largely in seclusion, with his wife Vicki, and four children, the youngest of which was 10 months old. He sold a couple of shotguns sawed off a might shorter than our Federal Government liked to see them. They tried to arrest him in the woods near his home. When the smoke cleared, a deputy Marshall and Weaver's 14 year-old son were shot dead. Courageous FBI men subsequently launched an assault on his cabin from a helicopter, and firing through the cabin door, blew Weaver's wife's brains out as she stood with their baby in her arms and her remaining children looking on. His best friend was wounded, and Weaver is now in jail. They rather did make a federal case out of it. So we've gone from a small family living in the woods, to three people dead, two families destroyed assuming the deputy had one, and Walker likely in prison for life - all over the length of a shotgun sold in an area where sheep outnumber people by about a three thousand to one. He had sold the sawed-off shotgun to a Federal undercover agent who asked him for one.

It may be that it doesn't matter what our founding fathers thought. I have the distinctly uneasy feeling they launched a revolution for independence from a government that allowed more freedom then than we enjoy today and that they would consider our entire system "unconstitutional."

In any event, one of the central focal points in the gun issue is the National Rifle Association - the NRA. They have amassed 2.9 million members to form one of the most effective activist lobbying organizations in the country - primarily to oppose legislation restricting gun ownership and use. They've developed a reputation among those who oppose them of being bitter in-fighters who will stop at nothing to destroy anyone opposing them. Among their constituents, they are viewed as the last thin defense against a government bureaucracy intent on first disarming, then enslaving the populace. Like I said, this is a divisive issue.

The NRA has recently launched a very wide advertising campaign that touts the Los Angeles riots as a prime example of why individuals should keep guns for their personal defense. The ads claim that "As violent mobs advanced, police were ordered to retreat. Terrified and abandoned, L.A. citizens raced to gun stores to buy firearms to protect themselves. But their government had abandoned them years ago." Detailed with full color photos of burning buildings and gangs of looters, the four page ad, which ran in 28 magazines in September, targets readers' worst fears.

Interestingly, the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action, the lobbying arm of the organization, has erected an electronic bulletin board system titled the NRA/ILA GUN-TALK BBS at (703)719-6406. The system is setup for NRA members and uses RBBS-PC software. The board went online officially on September 1, and sports an impressive amount of information regarding the NRA and various political issues surrounding gun legislation.

We found bulletins included a letter from James J. Baker, Executive Director of the NRA/ILA, about the mission of the system. One bulletin listed detailed contact information and mission summaries of groups who they characterized as anti-gun owner groups. They had sample letters to Congressmen, several bulletins detailing progress in their fight against the current hot legislative potato, commonly called the Brady Bill. Mr. Brady, you may recall, was shot in the head during an attempt on President Reagan's life with a cheap handgun wielded by a gentleman subsequently found to be mentally incompetent to stand trial. Brady's wife has worked tirelessly since then to get legislation restricting gun ownership enacted.

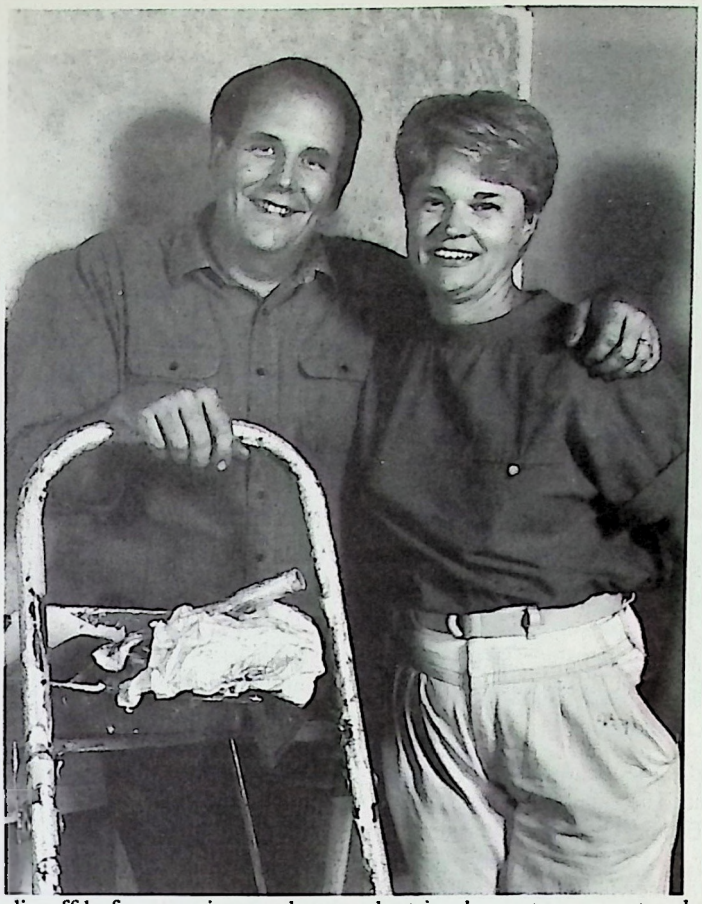
We also found a list of incumbent Congressmen friendly to the NRA and voter registration and election dates for vari-

ous areas of the country. The system provides facilities for you to join the NRA online ($25) and the BBS (an additional $15 yearly) by credit card. All in all, GUN-TALK comprises a remarkably good example of a politically activist bulletin board system in operation. Whether you think there ought to be more guns, or less, the system is interesting. NRA/ILA GUN-TALK BBS, P.O. Box 30841, Alexandria, VA 22310; (800)GUN-TALK voice, (703)719-6406 BBS.

HOUSENET - HOME RENOVATION BBS

Ultimately, the vision for the future of electronic bulletin boards is not to charge callers for access to unlimited DOS shell programs. Our hot button is and will likely remain for some time, the special topic bulletin boards - systems that focus information from a wide array of sources into one access point, available to all who know the correct ten digits to dial. Currently, this is the bottom of the economic food chain online. Within a few years, it will be an enormous industry, with thousands of information farmers tilling the soil of their topic of passion.

This is a bit magic in that the world is currently awash in a hurricane of largely useless information. But there have always been individuals who have developed a specialized topic of passion, and amassed incredible treasures of information in a narrow area. I read of a man who worked for Studebaker for decades, and can still tell you the model, year, and describe the part if you can give him a part number. People collect information about the oddest things, - historical use of barbed wire, information about the manufacture of old glass bottles, Superman memorabilia (he's being killed off here this month by DC comics), information on equestrian breeding and lineage going back generations. Basically, for any topic, there is someone, somewhere, who has over the course of decades developed themselves into the leading authority on whatever it is. Finding them can take months or years. In many



cases they die off before passing on the secrets of quill pen construction or whatever and it becomes a lost art.

The bulletin board technology being developed today, allows such individuals to archive their often untidy libraries of endless trivia about their topic of passion onto a hard drive. They can purchase or fashion tools giving them instant search capabilities to access any of it. And it can live on after they part from this earth. Most importantly, if they connect it to a telephone and a rudimentary BBS front end, then their friends and associates can dial in and access the same information. Ultimately, anyone on the globe that knows the right ten digits, has access to it as well.

I should someday hold in my hand (or on my system), a list of several hundred thousand such information farmers and their associated data numbers. And by dialing those numbers, a flower of information on any specialized topic, no matter how narrow, will unfold in a rational fashion to display all the secrets of whatever it is - how to care for sick cats, who stole second base in the third inning of the second game of the 1952 World Series, or how to build a hydroelectric damn to generate electricity. And thousands, perhaps millions of individuals will earn a comfortable living researching, collecting, arranging, categorizing, and presenting information on their selected topics of specialty. The library as we know it will become a cottage industry. And through these millions of tiny information lenses, order will emerge from the chaos of data that now threatens to engulf us.

Best of all, these will be interactive libraries. And on dialing one of them, the first thing I will encounter is a crowd of other people there both consuming and contributing information on this and related topics. They're all there together conversing not because they happened to be on the same street in the same city on the same planet at a convenient time, but because they share a common interest in the topic itself - an online convention that never closes its doors.

Currently, there are but a few embryonic examples of this type of bulletin board. One of the best examples we've run across recently is a system in St. Michaels Maryland titled HOUSENET at (410)745-2037.

Gene and Katie Hamilton have been completely absorbed in the topic of house renovation for over 25 years. The attraction to buy a charming old wreck for peanuts, work on it a little at a time yourself, and renovate it to a model home, is quite strong. A home is the largest financial investment most of us will ever make. And by buying older homes we can gain features such as leaded glass windows, carved stair cases, antique fireplace mantels, and so on just too expensive to duplicate in a new dwelling.

But this sweat equity renovation has a down side as well. I've known several people who've done it, and they all seem to share the joy of having done it once, and gotten it entirely out of their system. A couple of years of facing drywall in your frosted flakes usually takes the romance out of home renovation.

Gene and Katie Hamilton are a bit more persistent. They are currently on their FOURTEENTH home renovation. And basically, they do this for a living. They are also somewhat celebrated authors. They've written a number of books on home repair and renovation, including DON'T MOVE, IMPROVE; FIX IT FAST, FIX IT RIGHT; HOW TO BE YOUR OWN CONTRACTOR; QUICK-FIX HOME REPAIR HANDBOOK; WOODEN TOYS; BUILD IT TOGETHER. They currently have THREE books in progress including HAND POWERED TOOL PROJECTS, BACKYARD BASICS, and KEEP IT WORKING. They also write magazine articles for publications such as Popular Mechanics, Practical Homeowner, Home, Workbench, Home Mechanix, and Popular Science. They currently do a weekly syndicated newspaper column titled DO IT YOURSELF - OR NOT carried in the Chicago Tribune, and several other newspapers. It examines the costs of various projects to determine if each is likely to save money through doing it yourself, or if you will wind up spending as much or more as you would calling in a contractor. This "buy or build" type of decision comes up constantly in home renovation.

The HOUSENET system is a four-line Wildcat! BBS superbly focused on the topic of home repair and renovation. The system is one of the friendliest BBSs for novices we've encountered. Neither Gene nor Katie were particularly technically oriented with regards to computers beyond the usual journalistic level of word processing interest. And many of those interested in home repair are perhaps less involved in computers and modems. So the BBS is designed to be welcoming and helpful to those as yet unaccomplished in the technical details of BBSs.

The system very clearly identifies who runs it, where it's located, and what its mission and themes are. A very currently maintained news file lists dozens of bits of news about home repair. We found the Hamilton's had reported on a trip to the Housing Resource Center in Cleveland, a working laboratory consisting of a fully constructed house with cutaway views of crucial plumbing, electrical, heating system, and other technical components that you can examine first hand. A report on the National Hardware Show held in August was fascinating. Some 70,000 attendees visited Chicago to see some 250,000 hardware products presented by 3000 exhibitors spanning 850,000 feet of exhibit space. This sounds like COMDEX for the Tim Allen crowd (Urrgh - let's rewire the sucker).

And Tim would likely feel right at home. Each month, the Hamilton's award a piece of hardware, a tool, or something similar to callers who register for a drawing. In May, Mark Allen of Wichita Kansas won a 25-foot Stanley Leverlock Tape Measure. In June, Wendy Carter of Ann Arbor Michigan received a set of Craftsman Screwdrivers. In July, Mickey Sadler of Dublin Ohio received a copy of DECK, The Home Series, by Autodesk. This is a CAD program specifically written to design decks and patios on a PC. In August, Dick Kinsman of Chatsworth California won a Black & Decker Cordless Powerdriver Model SD 2000.

This brings notice to a factor most special topic systems seem to share - a national and sometimes international caller base. Shareware libraries have a strong local following, and much less so from across the nation when long distance dialing comes into play. Special topic systems such as HOUSENET, because there AREN'T many devoted to the topic, immediately attract callers from around the nation who share the interest.

One of the easiest ways to make a special topic system interesting is simply by collecting the related message conferences from all the different networks out there. HOUSENET has already picked up nearly 40 conferences from the RIME network and we were surprised at how many RIME message conferences are home related. We found conferences such as GARDENS, GADGETS, HANDYMAN, HOME SCHOOLING, HEALTH AND SAFETY, HOME HINTS, PETS, and HOBBIES closely enough related to be interesting. More than a thousand BBSs now carry some or all of the 250 odd Relaynet International Message Exchange (RIME) topics. The result is thousands of individuals communicating on home, house, and hearth related topics - available via HOUSENET. Local message areas also covered CONTRACTORS, ENERGY/WATER MISER tips, REUSE IT/RECYCLE IT, and HOME GARDENER.

The system carried a lot of fascinating if trivial tips. For example, we didn't know that if you rubbed a clothes dryer sheet such as Bounty or Cling Free on your skin, mosquitoes wouldn't come near you - something in the smell of these fabric softeners drives them away.

The system carries several hundred files, again well focused on the overall theme. Many of these are the text of articles the Hamilton's have done. Apparently their files on how to build a deck, how to remodel a bathroom, how to duplicate old mouldings with a router and plane, etc. are quite popular. But they had also amassed a fairly interesting collection of home related software programs. WORKHORS.ZIP seems to be some carpentry construction program. HBR.EXE is a home refinancing and purchase analysis program. 2100.ZIP is a review of workshop computer programs. AMORTZ.ZIP also recalculates refinancing costs. There was a Topp's Grocery Program to help manage a collection of coupons and rebate certificates. Another program performed metric/English conversions for measurements. There were wider issues to revolving around home life, a database for maintaining medical records

for pets, a swim team database, various scouting programs and files, bowling league things, and even a collection of not very common computer games.

Overall, the system was friendly, knowledgeable, and clearly accruing a growing collection of information about home maintenance, repair, renovation, and related topics such as gardening. Between them, the Hamiltons have over 50 years of experience with the actual processes they describe, and an amazing wealth of expertise in the topic. HouseNet, P.O. Box 1076, 111 West Chestnut St., Michaels, MD 21663; (410)745-5859 voice; (410)745-6072 fax; (410)745-2037 BBS.

EARTHART BBS - WILDLIFE ART GALLERY ONLINE

Conservation and ecology are not entirely new things, nor are they entirely populated by wild-eyed leftists with a pocket full of pop science and a lot of concern over ozone holes they know nearly nothing about. Hunters and fisherman, often portrayed as the evil ones in today's ecology movement, have for many years funded and fostered management and conservation programs to preserve wildlife and wildlife habitat. It is somewhat natural that they do so, as they have a natural desire for plentiful game and fish to hunt.

In the late 1930's, a gentleman named J.N. "Ding" Darling conceived the Federal Duck Stamp Program. In the years since, duck stamps have been issued by most of states that have any ducks whatsoever.

These programs are one of those situations where everyone who touches it wins - including the ducks. States sell the stamps to hunters. The stamps are typically five or six dollars and hunters must carry a stamp when hunting, or risk stiff fines. The proceeds that the state collects from the stamps, are used for conservation and habitat management programs that directly benefit the ducks. This causes more ducks. Duck hunters like more ducks.

But the win/win scenario goes even beyond this. First, most states have contests where artists submit designs for the stamps themselves. This has a couple of effects. First, artists who win these contests enjoy a big boost in their artistic careers. Winning a state wildlife stamp design contest IS actually a big deal to wildlife artists. Secondly, the stamps become very interesting and collectible objects of art themselves. So the hunters aren't really being so much hounded by state agencies to cough up management fees, as they are enrolled in an art collection program. And the stamps appreciate rather significantly in value.

The South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, for example, started a duck stamp program in 1981. Their first stamp was a copy of a painting by Lee LeBlank. In 1981, you could get the stamp for a total cost of $5.50, or you could purchase a full sized limited edition numbered print of the painting for $125. Today, the stamps alone are valued at $125 each, and the print plus a stamp goes for a cool $2200. The 1982 "Hunter Version" duck stamp was also priced at $5.50 originally. Today, they make the trip for around $650. These stamps appreciate at some 1400 to 1500% ANNUALLY and there really aren't any losers. You don't get that type of appreciation in certificates of deposit these days.

For the past 21 years, one of the leading wildlife art galleries in the southeast has been the Ambassador Graphics and Wildlife Gallery of North Charleston, South Carolina. This thriving art gallery specializes almost totally in wildlife and conservation art. Currently, they trade in stamps, prints, posters, and so forth of ducks, geese, fish, and other wildlife. They have become integral to the South Carolina stamp program, and in fact, they assist the state in the publication of these stamps. A couple of times a year, when a new stamp is issued, they will host a reception for the artist selected for the stamp, and the artist typically signs posters for those who attend.

Most notably, Ambassador is probably the first art gallery in the world to operate a BBS and post GIF images of art online. The system is titled EarthArt BBS, and we found it thoroughly fascinating from several angles.

The system is run by Bob Chapman of Ambassador Galleries - known online as the "Top Duck." It's currently a three line system using PCBoard software, and is actually located IN the gallery at Ashley Phosphate Road. Gallery visitors can watch it in operation. It is accessible at (803)552-4389 and sports a new U.S. Robotics 16.8K Dual Standard modem on the first line.

From our point of view, this system contains THE most serious collection of GIF image art NOT devoted to pornography that we've located anywhere. The system features hundreds of GIF images in various categories almost entirely devoted to wildlife/outdoor themes. The place is a little duck crazy with GIF images of State and Federal duck stamps from the last twenty years and most all of the states - all ducks we viewed were fully feathered and not depicted in any sexually compromising poses. There are also files such as SAVEAGLE.GIF - a stunning portrait of an American bald eagle. There are shots of the Grand Canyon and other nature scenes. Most of these are pretty seriously detailed images of 180-250KB in size.

The system is also tied in with the rest of the ecology movement. The board carries a number of appropriate conferences from the Relaynet International Message Exchange (RIME). It also features a 9600 bps satellite downlink with TCI's X*CHANGE cable service for various news items and conferences. The sysop, Bob Chapman, has put together a list of ecologically thematic bulletin board systems from around the country - each verified as not just carry-

ing eco conferences, but actually being primarily devoted to ecology/conservation. This green bbs list is available for download. In fact, he's launched his own fledgling network titled GREENNET and is fast picking up participating systems.

The gallery features a Pioneer LD V2000 laser disk unit with some 18,000 art images on a 7-inch laser disk that gallery visitors can use to search for images. Chapman is working on a method to link this to the BBS so callers can actually download images from this huge collection.

Although the system has just been up a year, it has already attracted a pretty large following. Chapman is posting messages of interest about stamp issues, art contest winners, etc. almost constantly and it has drawn a crowd. The current rage is an entirely NEW stamp series for saltwater fishermen. It's titled the South Carolina Marine Recreational Fisheries Stamp. Artist Randy McGovern won the design with his original oil painting "Spot-tail Bass". The stamp is commonly referred to as the first South Carolina Saltwater Fishing stamp. It went on sale July 1, 1992 and it is virtually assured to be collectible. South Carolina is the first, and apparently at this time the ONLY state to require a stamp for saltwater fishing. All fishermen fishing out of private or rented boats off the South Carolina shore are required to have this stamp in their possession on the boat and are subject to a **$248** fine if they don't. The stamp is available at 1200 locations across the state at a price of **$5.50.** The expected **$1 million** annual proceeds will go to enhancing habitat for saltwater fish, including building artificial reefs and so forth to further the cause of fish. At the end of the year, the state shreds any unsold stamps.

Callers can view the stamp by downloading the file **SC92SALT.GIF** from the EarthArt BBS. We were a little surprised to actually find artist Randy McGovern online on the system, responding to questions about the design - and mostly receiving complements for this very lifelike depiction of a bass.

Similarly, the state is issuing a new series of duck stamps informally referred to as the "Lighthouse Series." South

Carolina has eight lighthouses and the series will feature ducks with lighthouses in the background. The first of the series was awarded to artist Russell Cobane for his original painting of "Bufflehead at Harbour Town Lighthouse." This is available in the file **SC92DUCK.GIF** on the system.

Calling from here in Colorado, we had to check, and sure enough, we found **CO90DUCK.GIF** in a file area - a Colorado duck stamp.

Apparently, thousands of people collect these stamps, prints, and other wildlife art that don't necessarily hunt or fish. Given the award process and the benefits to artists, these stamp programs attract first rate art and collecting it at **$5.50** per stamp, or typically **$125** for limited edition numbered prints, can be a reasonably inexpensive and enjoyable hobby - and given the appreciation levels, potentially profitable as well. Further, most of the purchase price goes in a very real way to contribute to conservation efforts for our natural wildlife. A winning proposition for everyone who touches it, and a most interesting bulletin board system. The only negative was strict operation of one of those horrendous callback verification systems. But the system is free of charge. Bob Chapman, **Ambassador Graphics & Wildlife Gallery**, 3640 Ashley Phosphate Road, North Charleston, SC 29418; (803)552-0078 voice; **(803)767-3825** fax; **(803)552-4389** bbs

THIS MONTH'S LIST - 495 CONNECTICUT BBS SYSTEMS

This month we take a look at the BBS activity of an entire state - albeit a small state. Connecticut spans but **5009** square miles and sports a population of **3,287,000**. Kevin Brook, of the Creative Edge BBS in Danbury Connecticut compiles the Connecticut BBS list and most graciously allowed us to format and print it in Boardwatch Magazine. The list reveals some interesting things about Connecticut.

First, the list contains **495** bulletin boards. This indicates approximately one BBS for each **6,640** citizens. That is a slightly lower density of bulletin boards than our national figures. (approximately **1:6,250**). If the rest of the United States were to the same ration, it would indicate a total U.S. BBS population of some 37,650 systems.

The move to higher speed modems seems well under way in Connecticut. A total of 49.2% of Connecticut BBS support connections at 9600 bps or higher. Software selection was something of a surprise. Connecticut seems to prefer Maximus with 83 systems (**16.8%**) using either the DOS or OS/2 version of this software. Teleguard was number two with 48 systems and Wildcat! was number three with some 46 systems.

CONNECTICUT AREA CODE 203
LIST OF 495 ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS

List maintained by Kevin Brook of The Creative Edge BBS, 1:104/950 (203)743-4044, Danbury, Connecticut

The Wild Side BBS	221-7786	2400	Telegard	Weston
Fox Den	223-5217	9600+	RBBS	New Britain
Garfield's Castle	223-6838	1200	Image	New Britain
Scorpio's Den	224-3567	2400	Remote Access	New Britain
Cesar's Palace	225-2627	16.8	TurboBoard ST	New Britain
The Fine Blue Line	226-3565	V.32	SuperBBS	Weston
Starfleet Tech Spt.	228-1766	2400	Telegard	Columbia
V-MAX BBS	228-9865	9600+	RBBS	Hebron
Polish-American BBS	229-4463	V.32b	Star-Net	New Britain
E.S.I.	229-6981	2400	TAG	New Britain
The Ultra Project	229-9833	2400	TBBS	New Britain
Connect-CT Multiline	230-8820	2400	MajorBBS	Hamden
Midnight Madness	231-9389	V.32	WWIV	West Hartford
Hall H.S.	232-4562	2400+	Maximus	West Hartford
NEW Amphibian Cafe	232-6710	V.32b	CNet Amiga	West Hartford
The Cutting Edge BBS	233-8993	2400	Telegard	West Hartford
The Storm Front BBS	234-0824	14.4	Maximus OS/2	North Haven
The Light BBS	234-2540	14.4	Searchlight	North Haven
The Amiga Probe	235-4422	2400	Maximus	Meriden
Meriden Adult BBS	235-5908	V.32b	Maximus	Meriden
Bruce's Bar & Grill	236-3761	14.4	TBBS	West Hartford
GURPS Connection	236-7359	2400	Hermes	Hartford
Nursing Network BBS	237-1131	2400	Wildcat	Meriden
Master's Kingdom	237-6089	2400	Renegade	Meriden
Meriden Relay	238-0462	14.4	Maximus	Meriden
The Asylum	239-7428	2400	Telegard	North Haven
TAB Computers BBS	242-0530	14.4	Remote Access	Bloomfield
HH Info-Net	246-3747	V.32	PC-Board	Hartford
The OPAL Network	248-1648	14.4	Celerity	Hamden
Phantasy Star III	248-7133	2400	Renegade	Hamden
The Soapbox	250-2001	V.32b	Maximus	Cheshire
EarthStation 101	250-7247	14.4	Maximus	Cheshire
Lightning BBS	257-1103	9600+	Renegade	Wethersfield
The Libertarian BBS	257-1960	2400	RBBS	Wethersfield
H.U.G.E. Bit Bucket	257-9588	2400	GBBS Pro	Wethersfield
Dosadi Experiment	257-9906	2400	Maximus OS/2	Wethersfield
XANTH BBS	261-1476	14.4	Telegard	Easton
The Batcave II	261-4993	V.32b	Telegard	Trumbull
Trumbull Mini-BBS	261-6434	PEP	Maximus OS/2	Trumbull
U.S.S. Enterprise	261-6863	14.4	Opus	Monroe
Forest of Shadows	262-6111	2400	Opus	Southbury
Green Acres BBS	263-2573	14.4	Maximus	Woodbury
The Gateway to Hell	263-4542	14.4	Maximus	Woodbury
The Dark Gate BBS	264-1848	2400	TAG	Southbury
Anarchy Central	264-2394	2400	TAG	Southbury
The Hermit BBS	264-3827	2400	Maximus	South Britain
Pharaoh's Tomb	264-4935	2400	TAG	Southbury
The Cracked Mirror	264-7053	9600+	TAG	Southbury
Wyld Stallyns II	265-3589	V.32b	Maximus	Wallingford
Countermeasures BBS	265-7004	14.4	TAG	Wallingford
Baron's Quest	266-5680	V.32	TAG	Bethlehem
The Crow's Nest	266-7371	2400	Remote Access	Bethlehem
Last Chance Saloon	267-0194	V.32b	Maximus OS/2	East Hampton
30-Mile Island	267-0352	2400	WWIV	Haddam Neck
The Bottom Line BBS	267-1433	2400	Wildcat	Colchester
Goon City	267-2260	2400	Renegade	East Hampton
Li'l Frog	268-3111	14.4	Maximus	Trumbull
The Dog House BBS	269-2843	2400	Maximus	Wallingford
Realm of the Dragon	269-3509	2400	Telegard	Wallingford
Fantasy Land	269-3637	2400	TransAmiga	Wallingford
Captain's Cove	269-4349	14.4	MajorBBS	Wallingford
Heaven & Hell	269-7969	14.4	FoReM ST	Wallingford
Vampire Connection 2	269-8189	2400	Renegade	Wallingford
Vampire Connection 1	269-8313	14.4	Telegard	Wallingford
Chrometics BBS	270-8676	16.8	Maximus	Newtown
PANDORA'S BOX	270-9962	V.32b	Maximus	Newtown
Dungeon Master BBS	274-0853	V.32	Celerity	Watertown
The BBS Bar & Grill	274-3915	2400	Maximus	Watertown
The Billboard	274-7803	14.4	FoReM ST	Watertown
N.E. Xerox Users BBS	280-1478	2400	Wildcat	Hartford
Starbase One	281-0854	V.32b	VirtualBBS	Hamden
MacData Koronis Rift	283-1503	9600+	Celerity	Thomaston
Wizard's Cave	284-3374	2400	Spitfire	Wallingford
Bumm Slum	285-8442	V.32	WWIV	Windsor
Dragon's World	294-1813	1200	C-BASE 128	Wallingford
Info-Link BBS	295-8384	V.32b	Maximus	Marlborough
DRS CT TAX Info	297-5907	V.32b	Wildcat	Hartford
OtherSide o'Midnight	298-8632	2400	Remote Access	Windsor
Sherwood Forest o'CT	298-9232	2400+	Telegard	Windsor
Amateur Radio Union	298-9989	2400	TAG	Windsor
OS/2 Bullet BBS	322-4135	V.32	Maximus OS/2	Stamford
The Wild Side BBS	322-8889	2400	Wildcat	Darien
Lord Melkor's Domain	322-9447	V.32	VirtualBBS	Stamford
Stamford PC-Board	323-0553	14.4	PC-Board	Stamford
Sci-Fi BBS	327-4437	V.32b	WWIV	Stamford
Software Security	329-7253	2400	dBBS	Stamford
Star Express II	331-9936	2400	BBS Express	Bridgeport
CT PC U.G. BBS	332-1594	14.4	Maximus	Bridgeport
Planet Earth BBS	335-7742	14.4	Maximus	Bridgeport
The Handicap News	337-1607	2400	Opus	Shelton
Shakedown Street	338-0312	14.4	Telegard	Bridgeport
Rocker's Lair	342-0372	V.32	Hermes	Portland
Big Byte	345-2111	V.32	SuperBBS	Haddam
The Transfer Station	347-5138	2400	Remote Access	Middletown
Abbey Road	347-5967	V.32	Maximus	Middletown
High Tension BBS	348-8589	14.4	CNet	Stamford
DreamScape	349-1975	2400	Citadel	Durham
The City Limits	349-2016	2400	WWIV	Durham
Musicomp RBBS	353-8672		RBBS	Stamford
TransWorld	354-8095	2400	Telegard	New Milford
Hornet's Nest	355-5181	2400+	Telegard	New Milford
ModemNews Express	359-2299	14.4	Wildcat	Stamford
Bridgeport PC-Board	367-2761	V.32	PC-Board	Bridgeport
EXTRACT	367-4005	V.32	Maximus	Fairfield
The Psycho Ward BBS	371-8769	2400	CNet Amiga	Bridgeport
Misn. Ctrl Fun House	374-0101	14.4	Telegard	Bridgeport
Dragon's Doorstep	374-1907	2400	CNet Amiga	Bridgeport
Stratford Rainbow	375-1751	9600+	PC-Board	Stratford
Star Express I	375-8790	2400	BBS Express	Stratford
Dave's Penthouse	376-6105	2400	Remote Access	Griswold
Revelations BBS	376-8231	2400+	Renegade	Voluntown
Laser Computer Sys.	377-4739	14.4	Wildcat	Stratford
National Classified	377-6758	14.4	QuickBBS	Stratford
Pleasure Palace I	377-8823	14.4	Maximus	Stratford
The Pic Factory	380-0452	2400	QuickBBS	Bridgeport
Excalibur IV-B	380-1702	14.4	PC-Board	Bridgeport
The Wacko Board	384-2453	14.4	Maximus	Fairfield
Pleasure Palace II	384-9728	V.32b	Maximus	Bridgeport
The Amiga Connection	387-6277	2400	Star-Net	Hamden
End of the World	393-3411	14.4	Renegade	Bethany
The Capitol	399-2239	2400	Spitfire	Westbrook
The Matrix	399-7271	2400	Maximus	Westbrook
ST.A.R.R. BBS	421-4861	14.4	TurboBoard ST	Madison
Swamp Yankee BBS	423-2734	2400	Telegard	Willimantic
The Folly BBS	423-8145	2400	WWIV	Willimantic
EastConn Commdr.U.G.	423-9864	1200	AABBS	Willimantic
Crescent Software	426-5958	V.32b	Maximus	Newtown
UConn's Dreaming BBS	427-2920	2400	WWIV	Storrs
The University BBS	429-7982	V.32b	Maximus	Storrs
THE SOURCE OF MAGIC	431-4687	14.4	Opus	Ridgefield
The Dark Side BBS	438-1955	14.4	Maximus	Ridgefield
Orion's Nebula	438-9908	V.32	Maximus	Ridgefield
Three-Mile Island	439-0287	2400	QuickBBS	New London
Election '92 Forum	443-3777	2400	Telegard	New London
Surf Shop	443-3944		C-NET 128	New London
Grey Matter Sports	443-4233	2400	Star-Net	Waterford
Spinach BBS	443-6338	2400	Wildcat	New London
Just For Today BBS	443-9570	2400	QuickBBS	New London
The Computer Caddie	444-0731	2400	Maximus	New London
One Byte	444-1597	14.4	Remote Access	Quaker Hill

CONNECTICUT AREA CODE 203
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Twin Towers	445-0185	2400	Telegard	Groton
Chronicles Info-Net	445-0607	14.4	PC-Board	Groton
Software World BBS	445-7638	2400	Wildcat	Groton
Fantasy Land	446-0919	9600+	Skyline	Groton
The Citadel BBS	446-8773	14.4	Star-Net	Groton
Liberty Pass	448-2656	2400	Wildcat	Groton
Soundings BBS	448-2743	16.8	Wildcat	Groton
MATSHOP BBS	448-6571	14.4	Telegard	Groton
HieroGlyphix BBS	449-0527	16.8	Telegard	Groton
Rest in Peace BBS	449-0647	V.32b	PowerBoard	Groton
The Chalkboard I	449-0649	2400	Star-Net	Groton
Uni-Peg BBS	449-1604	V.32b	PC-Board	Groton
The Chalkboard II	449-8100	14.4	Star-Net	Groton
The Final Frontier	449-8101	2400	QuickBBS	Groton
The Rx BBS	449-8642	14.4	Celerity	Groton
Gemstone BBS	449-8747	2400	QuickBBS	Groton
Tech's Den	449-9793	9600+		Groton
The Silver Bullet	452-0277	2400	Spitfire	Monroe
The Infinite Pursuit	452-9337	14.4	Maximus OS/2	Easton
Trumbull PC U.G. BBS	452-9442	14.4	Maximus	Trumbull
The Labyrinth BBS	455-0089	2400	Renegade	Willimantic
Sherwood Forest	455-0646	16.8	RBBS	Chaplin
Hampton Acres BBS	455-9093	2400	Remote Access	Hampton
The Grapevine	456-1180	2400	Remote Access	Windham
The Willi-Board	456-1933	2400	Opus	Willimantic
Starship Enterprise	456-3983	2400	WWIV	Willimantic
The Batcave I	459-0130	CSP	Wildcat	Trumbull
The Cracks of Doom	464-7590	2400	Telegard	Ledyard
The Firing Line	466-0456	2400	WWIV	East Haven
PC-Clone	466-1625	14.4	Maximus	East Haven
Excelsior BBS	466-1826	V.32b	Maximus OS/2	New Haven
CyberNet Multiline	467-6375	2400	CyberNet	East Haven
Off-the-Wall BBS	467-7525	14.4	Maximus	East Haven
The Ultimate BBS II	468-6619	V.32	Telegard	North Branford
Enchanted Castle	469-5273	14.4	VirtualBBS	East Haven
Sun of Darkness	469-5601	2400	VirtualBBS	East Haven
The PgDn BBS	481-6827	14.4	Remote Access	Branford
Femwood	481-7934	14.4	Maximus	Branford
Nightmare Cafe	482-3324	2400	Telegard	Torrington
Midnight Madness	483-5928	2400	Telegard	Branford
Hippocampus BBS	484-4621	14.4	RBBS	North Branford
Erin's Keep	484-7061			Branford
Alice's Restaurant	488-1115	14.4	Maximus	Branford
Enchanted Kingdom	489-0412	V.32b		Torrington
Peasant's Den	489-7920	9600+	TAG	Torrington
The Four Horsemen	495-6589	2400	Maximus	New Haven
Research Group BBS	496-9183	2400	Minihost	Torrington
Conard H.S.	521-1354	2400+	Maximus	West Hartford
PConnecticut	521-1991	14.4	PC-Host	West Hartford
Quantum II	521-4499	14.4	Renegade	West Hartford
The Foundation BBS	521-9741		RBBS	West Hartford
The Magic Land BBS	522-3460	V.32	PC-Board	Hartford
Nimbus	523-4381	V.32	TBBS	West Hartford
Bruce's Wine Cellar	523-5551	9600+	MajorBBS	West Hartford
Spacers' Node	527-7870	2400	Maximus	Hartford
The Shuttle BBS	528-1180	2400	Telegard	East Hartford
The Warrior BBS	528-5831	V.32	Telegard	East Hartford
Alien Nation	528-7320	2400	TAG	East Hartford
E.H. Computer Repair	528-7693	2400	FoReM ST	East Hartford
Data Info Exchange	531-1057	V.32	WWIV	Byram
Bits & Bytes	535-4284	V.32b	Remote Access	N. Stonington
K-9 BBS	536-1300	2400	QuickBBS	Stonington
Igniter BBS	536-4285	2400	C-NET 128	Ledyard
C.B.I. BBS	536-8922	2400	Telegard	Mystic
Mystic Shareware Net	536-9549	14.4	PC-Board	Mystic
The Missing Link	537-2011	V.32	Wildcat	Colchester
Maw & Paw's Workshop	537-3036	V.32	Wildcat	Colchester
The Bottom Line BBS	537-3307	2400	Wildcat	Colchester
The Hose Tower	544-1053	14.4	Opus	Georgetown
Hartford Grad Center	548-2440	2400	TComm	Hartford
The Hotline	549-6287	V.32b	TBBS	Hartford
Paradise BBS	561-3571	2400	WWIV	West Hartford
The Hart-Metro BBS	563-6455	V.32b	Maximus	Wethersfield
CastleVania	563-9400	2400	Remote Access	Rocky Hill
Maniac Mountain	564-0025	2400	Remote Access	Plainfield
The Speakeasy	564-1860	2400	C-NET	Plainfield
The Jungle	564-4836	2400	CNet Amiga	Plainfield
The Plainfield News	564-5318	14.4	RBBS	Plainfield
The Zoo	567-4795	14.4	Remote Access	Litchfield
Nevermore BBS	568-4014	2400	WWIV	East Hartford
StarQuest BBS	568-7238	2400	Renegade	East Hartford
NightTrain- Nowhere	569-7978	V.32	TAG	East Hartford
The Studio I	572-1592	V.32b	QuickBBS	Noank
Toy Palace	572-7477	H96	SuperBBS	Ledyard
CoCoNut Manor	572-7649	2400	QuickBBS	Ledyard
This Space Available	573-1310	14.4	Maximus	Waterbury
Five Rings BBS	574-2310	V.32	RBBS	Waterbury
The Byte Xchange	574-2503	2400	TAG	Waterbury
Cops for Christ	574-3153	2400	Spitfire	Waterbury
Pandemonium	575-1457	2400	C-NET 128	Waterbury
The Checker Board	582-3726	2400	TAG	Bristol
Adults "R" Us	583-0715	2400	Wildcat	Bristol
The Archer's Domain	583-7942	V.32b	TAG	Bristol
The Garden Party	583-8693	2400	RBBS	Bristol
Land of Confusion	585-6576	V.32	Wildcat	Terryville
The Z-Street Express	585-8576	2400	OmegaBBS	Bristol
The Sanctuary	589-1570	2400	PC-Board	Bristol
Leisure Time Computn	589-1957	2400	Spitfire	Bristol
Subterranean Net	589-3273	2400	Color-64	Bristol
Connections Online	589-3400	2400	DLX (4 lines)	Bristol
Info-Line Express	589-4632	2400+	Wildcat	Bristol
Archer's Arrow BBS	589-7866	2400	Spitfire	Bristol
The River of Rage	596-0554	2400	TAG	Waterbury
Sunshine II BBS	596-1569	2400	Spitfire	Waterbury
Shadows of Eternity	596-1587	V.32b	Remote Access	Waterbury
File-Hogs BBS	596-1890	V.32	Remote Access	Waterbury
The Witch's Hollow	596-8285	2400	Maximus	Waterbury
Waterbury State Tech	596-8684	2400	Spitfire	Waterbury
Lefty's BBS	598-0242	2400	TAG	Middlebury
The Midnight Cafe	598-0460	1200+	TAG	Middlebury
Lobo's Palace	599-2318	2400	Renegade	N. Stonington
Our House BBS	599-3970	V.32b	Telegard	Pawcatuck
Reverse Polarity	620-0001	V.32b	Spitfire	Southington
DeadZone	620-0384	14.4	Maximus	Southington
The Pig Pen	620-0562	V.32b	Maximus	Plantsville
The Cygnus X-I Opus	620-0757	14.4	Opus	Southington
DownStairs BBS	621-1930	V.32b	TAG	Plantsville
The Dragon's Lair	621-3461	14.4	Wildcat	Plantsville
C Forum BBS	621-7767	2400+	ForumBBS	Southington
Rod's Maximus	621-9936	2400	Maximus	Plantsville
CALADAN	622-4740	14.4	Maximus OS/2	Greenwich
Express Line	622-9304	2400	RBBS	Greenwich
Club Cougar	623-3518	2400	SuperBBS	East Windsor
CrossRoads	627-5959	2400	TAG	Windsor Locks
Over-Exposed Adults	627-8088	V.32	Telegard	Windsor Locks
L.G.P. IBM/Mac BBS	628-4464	14.4	TAG	Southington
Boot Camp	628-6091	2400	Opus	Southington
The Speed Zone BBS	628-7899	9600+	Telegard	Southington
Dark Shadows BBS	628-9660	14.4	Celerity	Southington
Firesign	632-7282	2400+	Maximus OS/2	Middletown
UnderDark BBS	633-4748	2400	WWIV	Glastonbury
The Swine Flu BBS	633-9530	2400	Hermes	Glastonbury
Shareware Project	634-0370	14.4	Maximus	Meriden
The Silver Screen	634-8808	2400+	Maximus OS/2	Meriden
Chuck's Maniac Mans.	634-9165	14.4	Spitfire	Meriden
Satisfaction BBS	637-5729	2400	WWIV	Old Greenwich
Observer's Database	637-6710	V.32b	Wildcat	Old Greenwich
Seahawk's Citadel	639-1555	2400	Telegard	Meriden
Jogger's Convention	642-7630	2400	Renegade	Lebanon
N.E. Photo I	644-1835	14.4	Wildcat	South Windsor

CONNECTICUT AREA CODE 203
LIST OF 495 ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS

List maintained by Kevin Brook of The Creative Edge BBS, 1:104/950 (203)743-4044, Danbury, Connecticutt

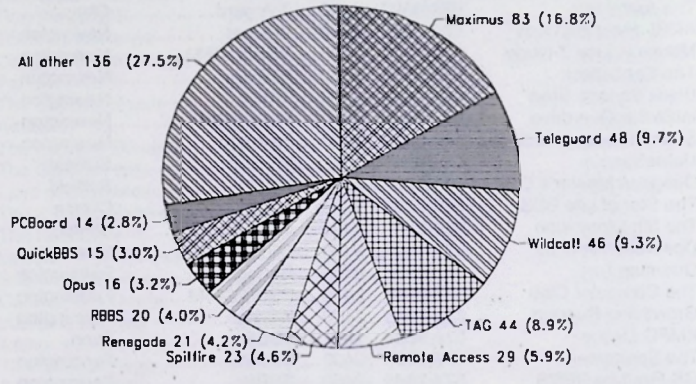
GameMaster's Refuge	645-0128	V.32	Renegade/TAG	Manchester
Ken's BBS	645-8900	2400	rOverBoard	Manchester
The Breakfast Club	645-9033	2400	Telegard	Vernon
The Music Channel	646-3058	14.4	TAG	Manchester
Programmers Playland	646-5842	2400	Remote Access	Bolton
AphroWorld	646-6935	1200	Ivory C-64	Manchester
Bennet J.H.S.	647-3481	2400	GBBS Pro	Manchester
Virtuality BBS	648-1067	14.4	Renegade	South Windsor
Rollover Central	649-2742	V.32	Renegade	Manchester
Wayne's World	649-3069		Renegade	Manchester
The Sound Connection	649-8193	2400	Wildcat	Manchester
The Void BBS	651-8666	2400	Remote Access	Simsbury
Terrapin Station	656-0134	H96	BBS Express	Darien
CyberSpace BBS	657-8237	2400+	Telegard	Glastonbury
The Grid UUCP	661-0450	V.32	Magpie/Waffle	Greenwich
The Hub	663-1147	14.4	Maximus OS/2	Killingworth
The Astral Rift	664-3597	2400	Telegard	Clinton
ARRL Field Services	665-0090	2400	Wildcat	Newington
Mouse House Z-Node	665-1100	2400	PBBS CP/M	Newington
The Spacedock	666-4999	2400	RBBS	Newington
Black Banana Stew	667-0903	2400	TAG	Newington
IntStellar Overdrive	667-2740	9600+	VirtualBBS	Newington
Sound Playground BBS	667-3982	2400	Telegard	Newington
HomeBase	668-2343	V.32	Wildcat	Suffield
Dungeon Master's Dmn.	668-8701	2400	TAG	Suffield
The Star of Life BBS	669-2089	V.32b	Tritel	Clinton
The 5th Dimension	669-2511	2400	Tritel	Clinton
Download America	673-2502	V.32b	RBBS	Farmington
Quantum I	673-8572	2400	Renegade	Farmington
The Computer Club	673-8752	2400	PBBS CP/M	Farmington
Growthline Support	674-1966	2400	Wildcat	Farmington
KMFC Online	676-9804	16.8	TBBS	Avon
The Sportsman	677-6087	2400	Spitfire	Farmington
GS Fire/Life RBBS	677-7848	2400	RBBS	Farmington
Display of Power	677-8711	9600+	WWIV	Farmington
Fozzy's Place BBS	678-0751	CSP	SuperBBS	Avon
Hostile Planet	683-2852	2400	TAG	Windsor
The Collectibles BBS	686-1964	2400	Minihost	Meriden
The Twilight Zone	688-0675	14.4	Telegard	Windsor
Windsor Manor	688-4973	2400	RBBS	Windsor
The DeadZone	691-0211	2400	Color-64	Niantic
The Cat's Meow	691-1191	14.4	Wildcat	East Lyme
YOUr BBS	693-6014	2400	PBBS CP/M	Canton
The Fire House	693-9201	2400	Telegard	Canton
Xanadu	723-8568	14.4	Maximus	Naugatuck
CT Veterans BBS	723-8595	2400	AABBS	Naugatuck
Empire of Darkness	730-8213	2400	Maximus	Danbury
Terry's Tavern	732-0575	2400+	Maximus	Derby
The Dark Side BBS	735-2577	2400	Spitfire	Derby
Licensed Insanity	735-5504	2400	TAG	Seymour
Glassonion BBS	735-9676	2400	Spitfire	Ansonia
The Final Frontier	736-2080	2400	Spitfire	Derby
Mount Olympus BBS	736-8678	V.32	TAG	Ansonia
Info-Net (10 lines)	738-0342	14.4	PC-Board	New Hartford
Excalibur's BBS	738-2084	2400	Remote Access	Winsted
Pink Rose OS/9 BBS	738-3064	2400	ACBBS	Winsted
Homey's Hangout	740-7969	2400+	Telegard	Brookfield
Sam-I-Am's BBS	741-6736	CSP	Wildcat	Enfield
Middle of Nowhere	741-7537	2400	Telegard	Enfield
Pandora's Box	742-5199	2400	Executive Host	Coventry
Stellar Sabre	742-5699	2400	Second Sight	Coventry
The Northfield BBS	742-6400	V.32b	Wildcat	Coventry
The Reservation BBS	742-7205	2400	QuickBBS	Coventry
War Zone BBS	742-7552	2400	Telegard	Coventry
THE CREATIVE EDGE	743-4044	V.32b	Opus	Danbury
Cave In the Woods	744-5494	2400	Maximus	Danbury
Active Systems	745-1970	V.32	TBBS	Enfield
The Fantasy Zone	746-4832	2400	Maximus OS/2	New Fairfield
Paradise II	746-9941	V.32b	Opus	New Fairfield
Dirty Bird BBS	747-3481	2400	Wildcat	Plainville
Connecticut Hobo	747-5105	2400	Wildcat	Plainville
Reality Knocks Once	747-5618	9600+	Remote Access	Plainville
Good Times BBS	747-5723	2400	TAG	Plainville
Starfleet Command	749-0532	V.32	Renegade	Enfield
Lucifer's Den	749-5370	14.4	VirtualBBS	Enfield
Death's Domain	749-6103	V.32	Telegard	Enfield
Sunshine I BBS	753-1525	2400	Spitfire	Waterbury
The White Toaster	753-4711	14.4	VirtualBBS	Waterbury
Baseball Express	753-7870	2400	Spitfire	Waterbury
A Place in the Sun	753-8351	14.4	Maximus/TAG	Waterbury
The Quasar BBS	753-8979	2400	Remote Access	Waterbury
Crazy Ed's Spitfire	753-9205	16.8	Spitfire	Waterbury
Dove Christian BBS	754-1484	2400	Spitfire	Waterbury
Southern Belle	754-8259	2400	Remote Access	Waterbury
INFONET BBS	754-9576	V.32	MajorBBS	Waterbury
Applause BBS	754-9598	V.32	ACBBS	Waterbury
The Shuttle Base	757-5312	2400	Spitfire	Waterbury
The Underground BBS	757-5455	2400	TAG	Waterbury
Pontoon TechnoBucket	757-7591	2400	Opus	Waterbury
Ground Zero	758-0210	9600+	TAG	Prospect
The Inner Circle BBS	758-0507	2400	Maximus	Prospect
Demon's Domain	758-2376	V.32	Telegard	Prospect
World Language Arts	761-1068	H96	Wildcat	Wilton
The Quadrangle BBS	761-1199	2400	Waffle UUCP	Wilton
GEM Computers BBS	761-9368	2400	MajorBBS	Wilton
Endeavor	763-0016	16.8	Wildcat	Somers
The Earth Network	763-3485	14.4	Maximus	Enfield
The Final Frontier	774-6961	2400	Remote Access	Danielson
Microville BBS	775-2001	2400	Opus	Brookfield
Star Trek: TNG	775-6198	V.32b	Maximus	Brookfield
The New Haven BBS	776-9723	2400	BBS Express	New Haven
Countermeasures BBS	776-9896	14.4	TAG	Wallingford
Wildfire's Forest	778-3578	2400	Telegard	Danbury
Skywalker's Galaxy	779-0283	2400	CNet Amiga	Danielson
Doc's BBS	779-2683	14.4	Maximus	E. Killingly
Mystical Madrigal	779-3173	14.4	Osiris-SE	Killingly
Brain Damaged	779-9112	V.32	QuickBBS	Pomfret
First Encounter BBS	783-1983	V.32	Maximus	Milford
Pascal's Parsec	790-5783	V.32b	Opus	Ridgefield
TREASURE ISLAND	791-8532	16.8	Maximus OS/2	Danbury
Rocky Road	791-8838	14.4	Opus	Danbury
Tricorp Consulting	792-1599	V.32	Wildcat	Danbury
The Odyssey	792-7675	2400	Color-64	Danbury
The Max BBS	793-0471	2400	Spitfire	Plainville
Communications BBS	793-1339	2400	Wildcat	Southington
Take A Byte BBS	793-1790	14.4	Maximus	Plainville
Crystal Pyramid	793-6970	2400	Wildcat	Plainville
Star Trek BBS	793-8443	14.4	TAG	Plainville
Phantasy Star U.D.	795-5683	V.32	Telegard	Orange
Death Star	795-8599	14.4	Renegade	Orange
IES BBS	796-5341	2400	Maximus	Danbury
Shark's Revenge	798-7837	2400	Maximus	Danbury
One Night Stand BBS	799-0353	2400	Hermes	Orange
TeleTalk	799-7454	14.4	Maximus	Orange
Starfinder NLCCUG	823-1750	2400	EBBS-128	Norwich
Phone Henge BBS	826-1153	V.32	Remote Access	New Britain
Phantom BBS	827-1005	9600+	PC-Board	New Britain
Midnight Run	827-9741	V.32b	Remote Access	Kensington
Wizard's Peak	828-3899	2400	Image	Berlin
The Berlin Wall	829-1697	2400	Remote Access	Berlin
Journey into Madness	829-2112	2400	TAG	Berlin
Kashmir BBS	834-0189	2400	GBBS Pro	Wilton
(George Meno's BBS)	834-0490	9600+	PC-Board	Wilton
NORAD Opus	846-3522	14.4	Opus	Norwalk
The Beach Resort	848-1079	2400	Telegard	Montville
Wolfland BBS	848-3326	2400	Hermes	Montville
The Cracker Factory	848-4802			Uncasville
Infinity Foundation	848-4869	1200+	SuperBBS	Montville
The Oakdale BBS	848-7942	2400	QuickBBS	Oakdale
Sportsman Corner BBS	848-9662	2400	Wildcat	Montville

CONNECTICUT AREA CODE 203
LIST OF 495 ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS

List maintained by Kevin Brook of The Creative Edge BBS, 1:104/950 (203)743-4044, Danbury, Connecticutt

FCUG TBBS	852-1890	9600+	TBBS	Norwalk
The Opportunity BBS	852-7282	2400	MajorBBS	Norwalk
Connecticut PC Club	853-9343	14.4	Wildcat	Norwalk
T.S.C.	854-9716	V.32	Opus	Norwalk
The Silver Griffin	855-1246	14.4	WWIV	Norwalk
GEO-NET BBS	855-9956	2400	WWIV	Norwalk
The Yankee Club BBS	859-3648	2400	Telegard	Salem
Greenwich H.S. BBS	863-8866	14.4	Hermes	Greenwich
The microSNET BBS	865-3562	2400	Wildcat	New Haven
Milliways	866-2464	2400	GBBS Pro	Norwalk
Flatline BBS	868-0291	2400	TAG	Washington
The Outland BBS	868-1127	2400	TAG	Washington
Magic Mountain BBS	869-0938	V.32b	VirtualBBS	Greenwich
The No-Name BBS	870-9010	2400	RBBS	Vernon
N.E. Photo IV	870-9719	2400	Wildcat	Vernon
The Circuit Cellar	871-0549	14.4	TBBS	Vernon
Land of No Return	871-6179	14.4	TAG	Vernon
The Brickyard	871-6233	V.32	TAG	Vernon
The Device Driver	871-7665	2400	TAG	Vernon
N.E. Photo V	871-9500	2400	Wildcat	Ellington
N.E. Photo III	872-0078	14.4	Wildcat	Ellington
Dark Tower	872-2774	2400	Wildcat	Vernon
Apocalypse BBS	872-7465	H96	Telegard	Vernon
Sinkhole Utopia	873-8518	2400	STadel	East Haddam
Father John's BBS	874-1919	14.4	Maximus	Devon
DS BBS	874-7429	2400	Maximus OS/2	Milford
Dream Stages	875-2924	2400	TAG	Tolland
N.E. Photo II	875-6400	2400	Wildcat	Ellington
The Water Hole	875-7071	V.32b	QuickBBS	Ellington
Mark & Anna's Place	875-8889	V.32	Wildcat	Vernon
The Rubber Room	876-0695	V.32b	VirtualBBS	Milford
Tom Sawyer's Island	877-2864	V.32b	VirtualBBS	Milford
CT PC U.G. BBS	877-5520	14.4	Maximus	Bridgeport
The Rubber Room	877-5856	V.32	VirtualBBS	
HAL 9000	878-2958	14.4	Maximus	Milford
The Pipeline	878-5879	14.4	Maximus	Milford
Mission Control II	878-6355	14.4	Maximus	Milford
The Last Derivitive	879-0091	14.4	CNet Amiga	Wolcott
The Wolcott BBS	879-5449	V.32	Remote Access	Wolcott
Uncanny-X-Board	879-7122	V.32	RBBS	Wolcott
The Seven Seals	881-0182	14.4	TAG	Seymour
K-9 Corner BBS	881-0303	2400	Spitfire	Seymour
The Charging Rhino	881-2716	2400	Spitfire	Oxford
The Cage BBS	885-0349		Wildcat	Norwich
The Surfers Alliance	886-4515	2400	Telegard	Norwich
Grim Mausoleum	886-6520	V.32	QuickBBS	Preston
The Plainfield News	886-7287	14.4	RBBS	Plainfield
The Hole in the Wall	886-8336	2400	CNet Amiga	Norwich
Phantasmal Alchemy	886-8574	V.32b	Telegard	Norwich
Fear & Loathing BBS	887-1663	V.32b	RBBS	Norwich
Another Bad Creation	888-1042	16.8	TAG	Oxford
The Pigeon Coop	888-4980	2400	UltraBBS	Seymour
Loner's Hideaway	888-6789	14.4	TAG	Seymour
Divorce Court	889-5422	V.32b	Maximus	Norwich
Starship Logos	924-1680	2400+	CNet Amiga	Shelton
The Soft Parade BBS	924-5603	14.4	Spitfire	Shelton
Ho-Bo's Junkyard	924-7348	2400	Maximus	Shelton
Fantasia BBS	925-8793	2400	TAG	Shelton
Novell Users Group	926-9504	14.4	Magnum OS/2	Shelton
The Help File BBS	928-4212	14.4	Remote Access	Woodstock
Bits & Bytes BBS	928-6508	2400	UltraBBS	Pomfret
Phantasy Star Quest	931-0003	V.32b	Renegade	West Haven
The Lido Hotel	932-4146	2400	Maximus OS/2	West Haven
ASCII Neighborhood	932-6236	14.4	Maximus	West Haven
ProDOS News BBS	932-8222	V.32	GBBS Pro	West Haven
Twilight BBS	934-6159	14.4	PC-Board	West Haven
Way Out Wild BBS	945-1077	14.4	TAG	Watertown
EmeroGronican BBS	949-0189	14.4	Maximus	Wallingford
Network Solutions	949-0375	V.32	Maximus OS/2	Wallingford
CT Tech Talk BBS	949-9338	2400	Telegard	Wallingford
Brain Damaged	963-7015	V.32	QuickBBS	Pomfret
ET's Domain	966-8865	V.32b	Wildcat	New Canaan
Tiger's Den	968-9266	14.4	Renegade	Stamford
Rogue's Morgue	974-1792	2400	Remote Access	Woodstock
CT Mutual Alliance	987-5998	2400	RBBS	Hartford

BBS SOFTWARE
In Connecticut



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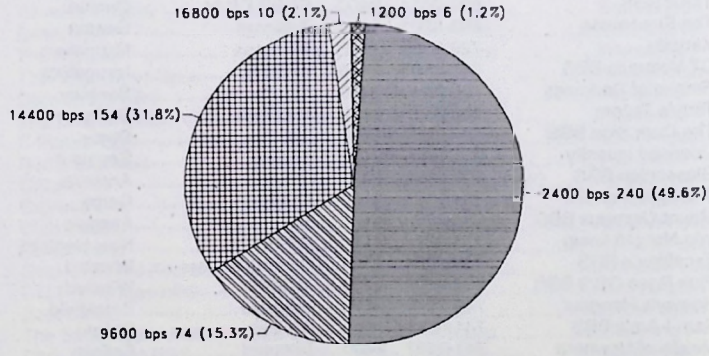
In Connecticut



CONNECTICUT

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Area: 5009 Square Miles
BBS Per Population: 1:6640
BBS Per Area: 1 BBS per 10.12 square miles.

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BOARDWATCH LIST OF BBS LIST KEEPERS

BBS LIST TOPIC	LIST AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
Republic of South Africa	Henk WOlsink	Catalyst BBS	(041)34-1122
Darwin National BBS List	Meade Frierson	USBBS Update Line	(202)547-3037
BBS With Handicapped Focus	Bill McGarry	Handicap News BBS	(203)337-1607
Connecticut AC 203	Kevin Brook	Creative Edge BBS	(203)743-4044
Seattle AC 206/West Washington	Bob Dinse/Nanook	Eskimo North	(206)367-3837
Autocad Related BBS	Jason Osgood	Alacrity BBS	(206)643-5477
Kitsap County Washington	Michael Schuyler	Quicksilver BBS	(206)780-2011
Astronomy/Space BBS	John Pickens	Starbase III BBS	(209)432-2487
Central California AC 209	Jack Porter/Madera UG	Zen Den Systems	(209)675-8436
Graphical User Interface BBS	David Shapiro	The Gooey (GUI) BBS	(212)876-5885
Southern California	Mike Hefferman	SOCAL Corner	(213)422-7942
96 List - 9600+bps BBS	Ken Sukimoto	Downtown BBS	(213)484-0260
Open Access UNIX Site List	Phil Eschallier	LGNP1 (login:BBS)	(215)348-9727
Area Code 215 PA and 609 NJ	Ron Brandt	Satalink BBS	(215)364-3324
Cleveland Area 216	Eric Rickin	Wine Cellar	(216)382-2558
Ham/Amateur Radio BBS	Stan Staten	3WINKs BBS	(301)590-9629
Handicapped Issues BBS	Richard Barth	HEX BBS	(301)593-7357
Baltimore Area 301	Phillip Bailey	Baltimore BBS News	(301)633-7870
Desktop Publishing BBS	Frank Atlee	Infinite Perspective	(301)924-0398
Conservation/Nature BBS List	D.Wendling/JS Christianso	Osprey's Nest	(301)989-9036
Medical Issues BBS	Edward Del Grosso	Black Bag	(302)731-1998
South Florida Area 305/407	Eric Thav	Silicon Beach BBS	(305)474-6512
California AC 310	Jim Walton	Illusions BBS	(310)804-3324
Detroit Area 313	Horst Mann	Tony's Corner	(313)754-1131
ASP BBS Member List	Bob Ostrander	PBS-BBS	(317)856-2087
Engineering Related BBS	Arthur Petrzelka	Computer Plumber	(319)337-6723
Rhode Island Area 401	Mike Labbe	Eagle's Nest	(401)732-5292
NAPLPS Graphics BBS	Ed Pimentel	IHBC BBS	(404)498-4254
Atlanta Area 404	Online Atlanta Society	OASIS	(404)627-2662
Atlanta Area 404	Rodney Aloia	INDEX System	(404)924-8472
Orlando Florida AC 407	Matt Drury	London BBS	(407)423-5226
National BBS List	DP McIntire/Beth Spotts	Ameriboard	(412)349-6862
Milwaukee Area 414	Jay Jadofsky	Priplanus	(414)442-0170
Arkansas Area 501	Bob Underdown	The Gaslight BBS	(501)444-8420
Portland Oregon BBS	Lisa Gronke	DawGone Disgusted	(503)297-9145
New Orleans BBS List	Jeff Jones	Southern Star BBS	(504)885-5928
San Francisco Area 408/415/510	Julie McGrew	Bay List BBS	(510)339-1045
Austin Area BBS List AC 512	Michael Allen Menoskey	-=ACE*BBS=-	(512)258-9989
Selected BBS	Joseph Caplinger & Son	J&J's BBS	(513)236-1229
List of Gay/Lesbian BBS	Eric Blair	S-TEK BBS	(514)597-2409
AC 516 Free Shareware BBS	Harold Stein	Long Island Exchange	(516)385-7882

This listing comprises a list of those who compile and maintain lists of bulletin boards, either by topical category, or by some geographic area or definition - often by area code. The primary bulletin board system where the list can be downloaded electronically is also included.

BOARDWATCH LIST OF BBS LIST KEEPERS

BBS LIST TOPIC	LIST AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
The List National BBS List	James Toro	PDSLO (The List)	(516)938-6722
Area Code 517 - Mid-Michigan	Rick Rosinski/SAMM	Wolverine BBS	(517)695-9952
Wisconsin 608		JW-PC Dataflex.HST	(608)837-1923
South Jersey Area 609	Dave Schubert	The Casino EBBS	(609)561-3377
New Jersey Area 201/609/908	Wayne R. Morton	Praedo BBS	(609)953-0769
Minnesota Twin Cities AC 612	Barry Watson	Abiogenetic BBS	(612)489-7983
San Diego, CA AC 619	Ron Dipold	Computor's Edge	(619)573-1675
Apple II BBS with Internet con	Morgan Davis	pro-sol	(619)670-5379
Virginia AC 703/804	Scott Dickinson	TOSOR BBS	(703)366-4620
OS/2 BBS Systems	Pete Norloff	OS2/Shareware BBS	(703)385-4325
Washington DC BBS List	Mike Focke	Interconnect	(703)425-2505
Geneology Related BBS	Richard A. Pence	NGS-CIG	(703)528-2612
Ontario Area 705	Alex Draper	Cottage Country BBS	(705)835-6192
Black Issue BBS	Arthur McGee	BDPA Bay Area BBS	(707)552-3314
Chicago	Colby Jordan/Peter Anvin	Stillwaters	(708)403-2826
Chicago	David Nathan	HURK BBS	(708)801-0823
Airline Pilot/JUMPSEAT BBSs	Rex Chadwell	ChicAAgo Hangar	(708)980-1613
Houston Area 713	David E. Wachenschwanz	Atomic Cafe BBS	(713)530-8875
Rochester NY AC 716	Tracy Logan	Logan's Run	(716)256-2659
National 800 Number BBS List	Michael Long	Hayes Online	(800)874-2937
CompuCom Modem BBS List	Thomas Weathers	Referral Market BBS	(803)297-4395
Macintosh BBS	Bill Taylor	Fort Mill Tabby	(803)548-0900
Ecology/Conservation BBS	Bob Chapman	EarthArt BBS	(803)552-4389
Wildcat! BBS	Jim Harrer	Wildcat! HQ	(805)395-0650
Central California Area 805	Larry Honore	His Board	(805)652-1478
Technical Support BBS List	Gary Barr	Digicom BBS	(812)479-1310
Kansas City Area 816/913	Roy Timberman	Sound Advice	(816)436-4516
Dallas/Ft Worth Area 214/817	Mark Robbins	Second Sanctum	(817)784-1178
National Adult BBS List	Clayton Manson	Titan BBS 1:3612/140	(904)476-1270
Computer Shopper BBS List	BBS Press Service	CS List BBS	(913)478-3088
OS/2 Related BBS	Dave Fisher	LiveNet 1:170/110	(918)481-5715
Tulsa Oklahoman Area BBS List	Linda Hargraves	Access America	(918)747-2542
Raleigh NC Area Code 919	Mike Stroud	Micro Message Svc.	(919)779-6674
U.S.S.R. BBS List	Serge Terekhov	Court Crimson King	7-3832-356722

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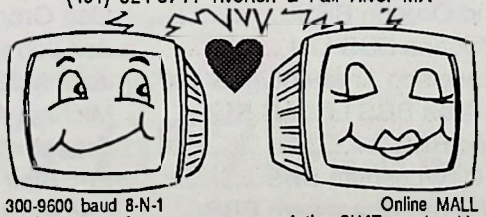

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The 3rd Eye Electronic Erotic Magazine (615)227-6155 Nashville Tennessee since 05/86. Sysop: Michael Vetter. Using TBBS 2.2M with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1000 MB storage. Hayes at 9600 bps. $30 Annually fee. A friendly gathering place for couples and singles with an interest in the swinging lifestyle. Personal ads (all lifestyles), digitized photos of members, online chat, adult downloads, club information, Unique echos, lifestyle support, multiuser games.

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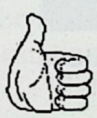

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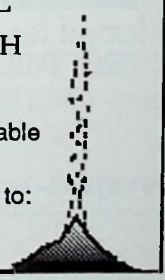

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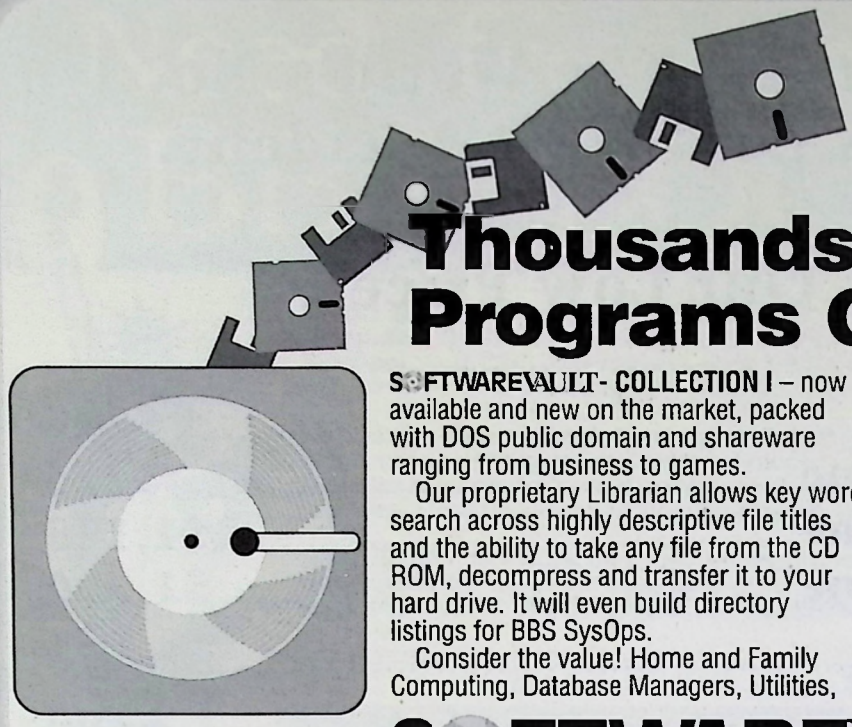

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APCUG - GlobalNet	(408)439-9367	Association of PC User Groups - Over 2000 UG officers	Paul Curtis/APCUG	Scotts Valley ,CA
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Aquila BBS	(708)820-8344	6 GB 25 Nodes Fidonet/Interlink/Metronet MCe IL/CHI Graphics	Kevin Behrens/Steve Williams/Doug Bell	Aurora ,IL
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FAX/Satellite Services BBS	(619)224-3853	NOAA Weather Satellite Images - Russian/Japanese Sat Pics	Scotty Olson ... San Diego ,CA
FCC Public Access Link	(301)725-1072	Equipment Authorization Status Advisory Service	Federal Communications Commission ... Columbia ,MD
FEDLINK ALIX II	(202)707-4888	nfo on Federal Libraries -Excerpts Library of Congress News	Federal Library Information Network ... Washington ,D.C.
Fido Software BBS 1:125/111	(415)863-2739	The First Fido BBS and home of Fido BBS 12s	Tom Jennings ... San Francisco ,CA
Fido Tech Stand	31-30-735900	Fidonet Technical Information for Holland	J.J. van der Maas ... Utrecht ,Holland
FOG City BBS 125/10	(415)863-9697	Gay Community BBS - AIDS Info - Desktop Publishing - MACs	Bill Essex ... San Francisco ,CA
Fred the Computer	(508)872-8461	Newspaper BBS. Wierdnet Newswire. List of MA Libraries	Middlesex News-Adam Gaffin ... Framingham ,MA
FreeBoard BBS, The	(804)744-0797	Desktop Publishing File Distribution Network 1:264/212	Bill Hunter ... Midlothian ,VA
FSBBS Prototype System	(805)543-8227	Home of FSUUCP and FSBBS - Unix Communications for DOS	Chris Ambler, Fubar Systems ... San Luis Obispo ,CA
Fun Connection	(503)753-8431	Multiline Entertainment - 8 Lines Games/Chat/News	Vincent Reece ... Corvallis ,OR
Garbage Dump, The	(505)294-5675	Online Chat Service - Adventure Games - National Chatlink	Dean Kerl/Datasafe ... Albuquerque ,NM
Gateway Communications BBS	(714)863-7097	Novell Netware/TCP-IP Shareware Utilities	Gary Gabrick ... Irvine ,CA
GDP Technologies	(303)673-9470	Outstanding IBM Shareware on a small system	Tom Getty's ... Lafayette ,CO
General, The	(619)281-8616	Popular File Library - GIF Images	Marc Teitler ... San Diego ,CA
GISnet BBS	(303)447-0927	Graphics Information Systems/Mapping topics	Bill Thoen ... Boulder ,CO
GLIB	(703)578-4542	Gay and Lesbian Information Bureau - 11 Lines - 9600 bps	Community Educational Svcs. Foundation ... Arlington ,VA
GPO WINDO Online Service	(202)512-1387	Fed Information from EPA, DOE, State Department - others.	US Government Printing Office ... Washington ,DC
Greenpeace Environet	(415)512-9108	Ecological and Peace Issues - Disarmament/Toxics/Wildlife	Dick Dillman/Greenpeace ... ,
Hayes Advanced Systems Support	(800)874-2937	Customer Support Line for Hayes Customers. V-series/Ultra	Hayes Microcomputer Products ... Norcross ,GA
Heartland Free-net	(309)674-1100	Community Online Service - Free Internet E-Mail Boxes	Peoria County Board/Bradley University ... Peoria ,IL
Herpnet/Satronics TBBS	(215)698-1905	Reptile and Amphibian Studies - Poison Snakes/Toads/Fish	Mark Miller ... Philadelphia ,PA
HH Info-Net BBS	(203)246-3747	MS Windows and OS/2 Files our specialty	Lee Winsor ... New Hartford ,CT
HoloNet	(510)704-1058	National Access,INTERNET,USENET,CHAT,GIFS,FILES,MP	Information Access Technologies, Inc. ... Berkeley ,CA
HouseNet BBS	(410)745-2037	Home Fixup/Repair/Renovation Tips, Advice, and Articles	Gene and Katie Hamilton ... St. Michaels ,MD
Hysterics	(613)231-7144	Amiga File Distribution Network 1:163/109	Russell McOrmond ... Ottawa, Ontario ,
IBM National Support Center BBS	(404)835-5300	IBM PC User Groups Database - Newsletter Exchange	IBM National Support Center ... Atlanta ,GA
Inbound/Outbound/Teleconnect	(212)989-4675	Telephone Sales Trade Magazine Online Service	Harry Newton Publications ... New York ,NY
Index Systems	(404)924-8414	Excellent list of Atlanta BBS systems online	Rodney Aloia ... Marietta ,GA
Infinity World	(606)278-2002	8 line Galacticomm System - Many good text publications	Daniel Diachun ... Lexington ,KY
InfoHost Demo BBS	(201)335-2253	Demo BBS for InfoHost BBS Software - Multiline - Database	A-Comm Electronics Inc. ... Hasbrouch Heights ,NJ
Infolink for Upper East Tenn.	(615)434-2551	Space Database - Online Store - Chat	John Williams ... Johnson City ,TN
Inns of Court, The	(214)458-2620	LAN Related Files and Utilities 1:124/6101	Arthur Geffen ... Dallas ,TX
Intel PCEO Support BBS	(503)645-6275	Support for Intel PC Products - Inboard 386/AboveBoard 286	Intel Corporation PCEO Division ... Hillsborough ,OR
Invention Factory	(212)274-8110	46 Lines - 100 Directories - Full Usenet Feed - 8.2 GB	Mike Sussell ... New York ,NY
Investor's Online Data	(206)285-5359	Online Investment/Stock Market Information/Tech Analysis	Don Shepherdson ... Bellevue ,WA
JAG-NET	(703)325-0748	Navy Judge Advocate General's Information Network	US. Dept. of Navy / Chris Buechler ... Arlington ,VA
JDR Microdevices BBS	(408)559-0253	Online Hardware Order - Catalog - 1.1 GB Files - Quizzes	JDR Microdevices ... San Jose ,CA
JOBBS	(404)992-8937	Online Job Listings - 2186 Technical Pos. - 10,000 Corps.	Alpha Systems Inc./Bill Griffin ... Roswell ,GA
Keith Graham Shareware Support	(914)623-0039	OPTIK, TEXT2COM, CBOOT, very good shareware utilities	Keith P. Graham ... Nyack ,NY
KIMBERELY BBS	(612)340-2489	Prime Rate-Fed Funds-T-Bill-Discount Rate-Economic Data	Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis ... Minneapolis ,MN
King's Market BBS 104/115	(303)665-6091	400 MB Books, Writers Area - TRS 80 Support	Jim and Karen Burt ... Boulder ,CO
LANtastic BBS	(602)293-8065	Support for LANtastic local area network	Artisoft Inc. ... Tucson ,AZ

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BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEMS AND ON-LINE INFORMATION SERVICES - NOVEMBER 1992

SERVICE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR/SYSOP	LOCATION
Late Night Software 125/555	(415)695-0759	Home of UFGATE - Software to connect PCs to UUCP/Usenet	Tim Pozar	San Francisco ,CA
LegalEase	(509)326-3238	Legal issues/Forms - Law BBS List	Bill Sorcinelli	Spokane ,WA
MAC-LINK	(514)486-8959	Macintosh Oriented Support BBS - 6 Lines - Infomat/BIX	Mark Smith	Montreal, Quebec
Macalot Bulletin Board	(412)846-5312	Support for Second Sight BBS Software for Macintosh	Jeff Dripps/FreeSoft Company	Beaver Falls ,PA
MacInternational	(803)798-3755	Largest MAC BBS on East Coast	Ralph Yount	Columbia ,SC
Magpie BBS	(212)420-0527	Support/Demo System for Magpie BBS/Conferencing Software	Steve Manes	New York ,NY
MaxiHost Support BBS	(209)836-2402	MaxiHost BBS - small, very easy to run BBS	Don Mankin	San Ramon ,CA
McAfee Associates BBS	(408)988-4004	Computer Virus Information - VIRUSCAN and CLEANUP Programs	John McAfee/CVIA	Santa Clara ,CA
METRO Online Entertainment	(212)831-9280	32 line DLX with City Guide/Ski Database - Matchmaker - Chat	Bruce Kamm/Metro Online Services	New York City ,NY
Micro Foundry, The	(415)598-0398	2.2 GB Downloads - Your Online Software Source - Boardwatch	Thomas Nelson/Clockwork Software	San Jose ,CA
Micro Message Service	(919)779-6674	USA Today/Boxoffice Magazine - Large Download Area	Mike Stroud	Raleigh ,NC
Micro Tech BBS	(314)334-6359	Support for OSIRIS Multiline BBS Software - IRIS Mail	Micro Tech	Cape Girardeau ,MO
Microlink B	(303)972-9600	Over 2.5 GB of IBM Software - Multiline - USA Today News	Girard Westerberg	Littleton ,CO
Microrim Technical Support BBS	(206)649-9836	Support for Popular R:Base Relational Data Base System	Microrim Corporation	Redmond ,WA
Microsoft Download BBS	(206)936-6735	Windows Technical Notes and Support Information	Microsoft Corp/Scott J. Honaker	Bellevue ,WA
Microsystems Software Inc.	(508)875-8009	HandiWare Software for Handicapped - CodeRunner C Utilities	MSI - Reed Lewis	Framingham ,MA
Minnesota Spacenet	(612)920-5566	Minnesota Space Frontier Society - NASA News	Ben Husset	Minneapolis ,MN
MOG-UR'S EMS, The	(818)366-1238	5 Lines - 8 Networks CD-ROMS - 2.8 GB Hub Services HST/V.32	Tom Tcimpidis	Granada Hills ,CA
Movie BBS	(718)939-5462	Movie Reviews and Information - Television	Clarke Ulmer	New York ,NY
N.A.C.D. BBS	(912)246-3280	Cave Scuba Diving - Superb Special Topic System	National Assoc. of Cave Divers	Gainsville ,FL
N8EMR Ham BBS	(614)895-2553	login:hbbs HAM Radio/AMSAT Unix System - Satellite/Packet	Gary Sanders	Westerville ,OH
NAPLPS Graphics BBS	(613)727-5272	NAPLPS Graphics Terminal and Editor Software	MicroStar Corp.	Nepean ,Ontario
NASA Spacelink	(205)895-0028	NASA Educational Affairs Div. - Flight Data/Space History	Marshall Space Flight Center	Huntsville ,AL
Nashville Exchange	(615)383-0727	12 line TBBS - Games/TDBS Software Development 1.8 GB	Ben Cunningham	Nashville ,TN
National Genealogical BBS	(703)528-2612	Family History - Genealogical Research - Gravestone Haunting	National Genealogical Society	Arlington ,VA
NAVWESA	(202)433-6639	Naval Weapons Engineering Support	Dept. of Navy / Bill Walsh	Washinton, D.C. ,.
Netcom Internet Guest System	(408)241-9760	Internet Access System - type "guest" at login for info.	Netcom Online Communications Services	San Jose ,CA
Network World Bulletin Board	(508)620-1178	LAN and WAN Issues and Technology	Network World Magazine/CW Communications	Framingham ,MA
NIST ACTS	(303)494-4775	Automated Computer Telephone Service - Sync PC to NBS Time	Nat. Institute for Standards/Technology	Boulder ,CO
Nixpix	(303)920-1263	Large Library of Adult GIF Graphics Images	Nick De Wolf	Aspen ,CO
NOAA Space Environment Lab	(303)497-5042	Solar Flare/Geomagnetic Data Online	National Oceanographic/Atmospheric Admin	Boulder ,CO
NoGate Consulting	(616)530-3392	Home of PAK archive utility	Mike Neuhaus Gus Smedstad	Grand Rapids ,MI
Numisnet	(301)498-8205	Collecting of Coins, Medals, and Exonumia	The Mitchell Group	Laurel ,MD
OAQPSTTN	(919)541-5742	Air Quality Planning and Standards Technology Transfer Net	Environmental Protection Agency	Research Triangle Park ,NC
OASIS BBS	(404)627-2662	Home of Atlanta Bulletin Board List - ABBL	Robert Orr/Online Atlanta Society	Decatur ,GA
Occupational Health/Safety BBS	(212)385-2034	Job Safety Issues for Artists, Musicians, Entertainers	Mike McCann/Center for Safety in Arts	New York ,NY
Odyssey	(818)358-6968	Adult Multiline Chat System - Games - Magazines - Downloads	Michael Allen	Monrovia ,CA
OERI BBS	(800)222-4922	Educational Statistics and Data - Performance Stats -	US Department of Education	Washington ,D.C.
Old Colorado City Communications	(719)632-4111	Political Discussions - Unix UUCP Public Access - Multiline	Dave Hughes	Colorado Springs ,CO
Online Now	(807)345-5522	700 Megs plus 5 CD-ROMS plus 6 MB New Software per Week	Gary Walsh/Tom Haavisto	Thunder Bay ,Ontario
Online With Hayes	(404)446-6336	Hayes Public Bulletin Board - Conferences/SIGS/Support	Hayes Microcomputer Products	Norcross ,GA
Oracle PC	6108 260-6222	South Australian TBBS Multiline System	Don Crago	Pooraka South Australia ,
Osprey's Nest	(301)989-9036	Birdwatching, Bird feeding, Naturalist/Ecology Issues	Fran and Norm Saunders	Colesville ,MD
P.D.S.L.O. BBS	(516)938-6722	Home of THE LIST National BBS List	James Toro	Hicksville ,NY
PacComm BBS	(813)874-3078	Packet Radio Equipment Supplier - TNC/PSK Modems	Gwyn Reedy/PacCom Inc.	Tampa ,FL
PC Ohio	(216)381-3320	Shareware library with 100% USR HST access - 24 lines	Norm Henke	Cleveland ,OH
Pennywise	(800)752-3012	Online Office Supply Sales Service	Pennywise	Edmonston ,MD
PHYSICS Forum BBS	(413)545-1959	Physics and Astronomical Sciences	Univ.of Mass. Dept. of Physics/Astronomy	Amherst ,MA
Pinecliffe BBS 104/28	(303)642-7463	Large Shareware Library/Echomail Conferences since 1985	Craig Baker	Pinecliffe ,CO
Pinnacle Software BBS	(514)345-8654	Support for Sapphire BBS Software	Timothy Campbell/Pinnacle Software	Montreal ,Quebec
PKWare BBS	(414)354-8670	Home of PKZIP 1.10 Compression Utility	Phil Katz/PKWare Incorporated	Glendale ,WI
Pleasure Dome	(804)490-5878	Sexually Explicit Fantasy Chat System - Adults only	Tom Terrific	Tidewater ,VA
Practical Peripherals BBS	(805)496-4445	Support BBS for Practical Peripherals Modems	Practical Peripherals	West Lake Village ,CA

ProComm Support BBS	(314)875-0503	Home of ProComm 2.4.3 and ProComm Plus Comm Prgrms
Promised Land, The	(715)387-1339	16-Line/2.5GB/11,000+ Files/ WINDOWS, Chat & More
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Public Data Network	(503)474-6662	64-line System with $2.50/hour Local Access
QMail Deluxe Support BBS	(615)230-8822	Support for QMail - offline conference mail reader
Qualitas, Inc. BBS	(301)907-8030	386MAX and BlueMAX Memory Management Software Support
Random Access Information Svc.	(503)695-3250	11,000 GIF Images - 20,000 DOS/Windows Shareware Files
Rusty & Edies	(216)726-0737	Large ML PCBoard run by Husband and Wife - NFL/Tradewars
Salt Air BBS	(801)261-8976	Home of PCBoard BBS Software - National List of PCB Sys
San Diego NeXT User's Group BBS	(619)456-2522	Support for NeXT Computers
Science Resource Studies BBS	(202)634-1764	Federal R&D Budget - Technical Labor Market Statistics
SEAboard!	(201)473-1991	Support system for ARC, SEADOG, and AXE software.
Seagate Technical Support BBS	(408)438-8771	Installation and Specifications for Hard Drive Models
Searchlight BBS	(516)689-2566	Support system for Searchlight BBS Software
SemWare Support BBS	(404)641-8968	Home of QEdit - A Superb Shareware Text Editor
SENDIT	(701)237-3283	North Dakota K-12 Educational Net-telnet sendit.nodak.edu
SIGCAT BBS	(703)648-4168	CD-ROM /Optical Publishing Info - Lists of Gov. CD Data
Sistema Profesional Informacion	525 590-5988	Largest BBS in Mexico - Spanish Language TBBS
Skeleton Closet, The	(804)671-8547	Geneology Programs File Distribution Net 1:271/23
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Software Creations BBS	(508)368-4137	Home of Apogee Software/Commander Keen Series
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Trinity 1 BBS	44 392 410210	United Kingdom Distributor of Boardwatch Magazine
U.S. Robotics - Sit UBU Sit	(708)982-5092	Support for US Robotics HST 9600 bps Modems
US Naval Observatory BBS	(202)653-1079	Time - Date - Sunrise - Sunset - Enter @TCO for Commands
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UT Library Online Catalog	(512)471-9420	Online Library Card Catalog Listing 3.5 million entries
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Yellow Dream Machine BBS	(512)451-3222	Disability Rights Issues - Variety of Disability Newsletters

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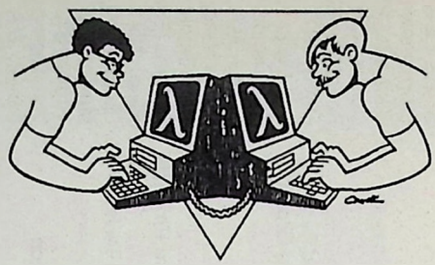

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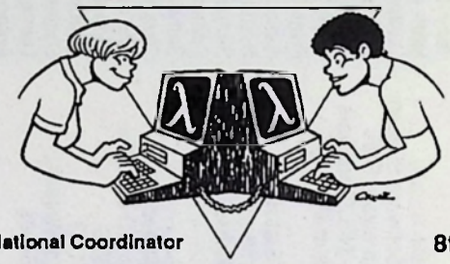

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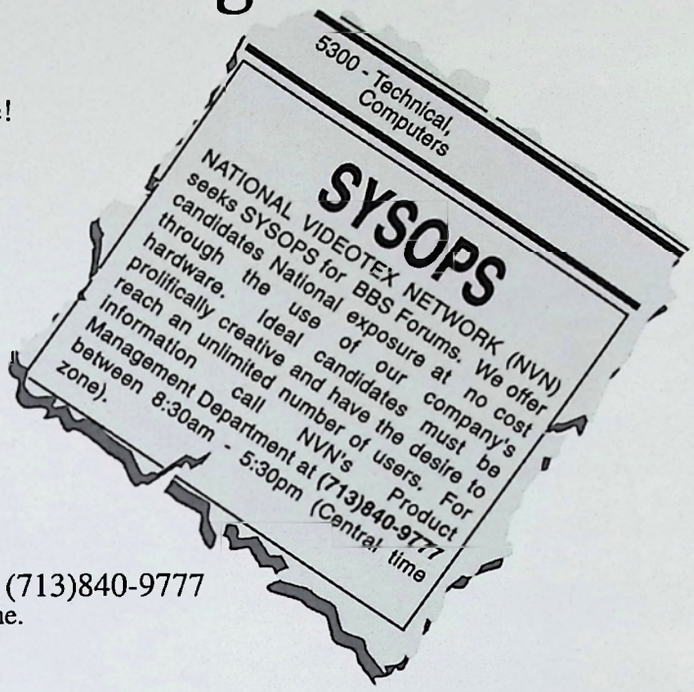

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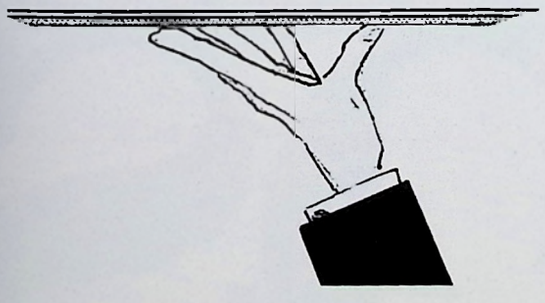

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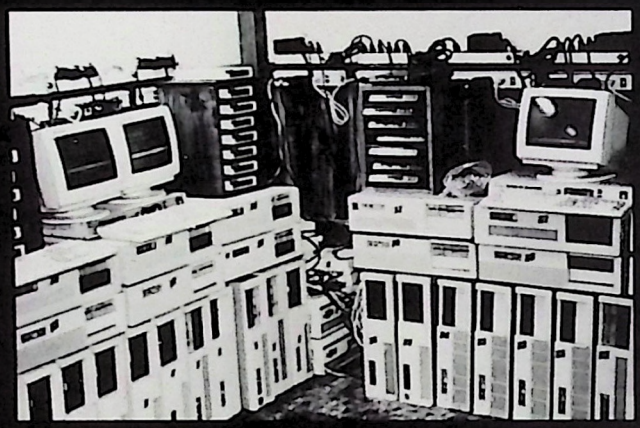

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